

February 22, 2021

Dear Member of Arizona's Congressional Delegation:

In the past year, the word "protect" has taken on greater importance. We all know the importance of protecting one's face during this pandemic, but it is also important that leaders like you protect Arizona's patient community. While there are many key issues facing patients, our hope is that we can count on your support on the particular issue of the six protected classes of medications.

In what the HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute Executive Director Carl Schmid said was "*a vicious parting gift to patients*", the Trump Administration (*on its final day in office*) announced changes to the Part D Payment Modernization Model that severely endangers patient access to specialized medicines. **It does this by dropping the requirement that all drugs included in the six protected classes are covered in Part D formularies. These six protected classes include drugs that treat epileptic seizures, mental illness, cancer, HIV/AIDS, and organ transplants.**

These are highly complex diseases that require specialized treatments. This new model allows plans to reduce their formularies to cover only five of these six protected classes. We know that when it comes to dealing with these diseases, there is no one-size-fits-all treatment. It is highly individualized and complex, requiring multiple drugs before finding one that works for that individual. That is why providing many options is imperative.

In the end, this change will create roadblocks and endanger care for the patient. It will not increase their access to potentially life-saving treatments nor will it save them any out-of-pocket costs.

Medicare Part D has been a success, through multiple Administrations, and should be protected so Arizonans can continue to count on access to quality treatment at an affordable cost. That is why we hope you work with the Biden administration to **#ProtectThe6** and reverse this poor policy decision.

Sincerely,

