August 2, 2013

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member
Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Alexander:

We write to express our bipartisan support for the 340B Drug Discount Program, a 20-year old law that helps to reduce pharmaceutical costs for hundreds of hospitals that serve many low-income residents of our states.

The 340B Program has reduced federal and state government spending on prescription drugs by billions of dollars and successfully increased access to drugs for low-income and other vulnerable patients served by 340B providers.

Our 340B hospitals report that the program enables them to expand health care services to the community, increase the number of patients they serve, or offset losses from uncompensated care. Given the significant economic pressures on these safety net providers, any threat to these savings means that these community-based programs are at great risk.

We appreciate your continued support of the program, and look forward to working with you to improve the program and ensure the 340B Program continues to serve the needs of safety net entities and their patients.

Sincerely,

JOHN THUNE
United States Senator

TAMMY BALDWIN
United States Senator

ROGER WICKER
United States Senator

SHERROD BROWN
United States Senator
JOE MANCHIN, III
United States Senator

MARK L. PRYOR
United States Senator

DEBBIE STABENOW
United States Senator

JEFF MERKLEY
United States Senator

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senator

JAMES E. RISCH
United States Senator

KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND
United States Senator

HEIDI HEITKAMP
United States Senator

SUSAN M. COLLINS
United States Senator

CHRISTOPHER MURPHY
United States Senator

MIKE CRAPO
United States Senator