

June 18, 2018

The Honorable Buddy Carter  
U.S. House of Representatives  
432 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter Welch  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2303 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1314 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Doug Collins  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1504 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Morgan Griffith  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2202 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Austin Scott  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2417 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Carter, Welch, McMorris Rodgers, Collins, Griffith, and Scott:

On behalf of the Arthritis Foundation, the leading organization representing the 54 million adults and 300,000 children with doctor-diagnosed arthritis in the United States, I write in support of H.R. 5343, the Prescription Transparency Act of 2018. Your bipartisan legislation would allow pharmacists to inform patients about alternative options to lower out-of-pocket drug costs.

As you know, gag clauses put in place by health plans and pharmacy benefit managers effectively prevent a pharmacist from telling a person who fills his or her prescription that they may pay more for a prescription drug with insurance than if he or she had filled it without insurance. Consequently, people may be paying higher out-of-pocket costs for their medications unnecessarily. For people with arthritis and other chronic diseases, these gag orders may prevent them from making what could be a significantly cheaper choice of paying the cash price for their needed medication rather than a higher co-payment.

For instance, [research](#) published earlier this month in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* found that overpayments affected 23 percent of prescriptions filled out of nearly 10 million claims that were evaluated. The study also calculated that these overpayments totaled \$135 million in 2013.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue and we look forward to working with you to ensure that patients are made aware of all payment options at the pharmacy counter.

Sincerely,



Anna Hyde  
Vice President, Advocacy and Access  
Arthritis Foundation