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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

January 26, 2018

The Honorable Salud Carbajal  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Carbajal:

I have sent the enclosed letters to members of the Energy and Commerce Committee, reiterating the County of Ventura's support for Congressman McKinley's H.R. 4392 or similar legislation to place a permanent moratorium on a new Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services policy in the 2018 Outpatient Prospective Payment System rule that cuts by 27% Medicare Part B payments for drugs purchased through the 340B Drug Pricing Program.

The 340B program was established to lower drug costs for hospitals and community health centers that care for a disproportionate share of low-income patients. Under the program, pharmaceutical manufacturers agree to extend discounts to eligible providers – including essential hospitals and Federal Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) – as a condition of participating in the Medicaid and Medicare Part B markets. The program provides patients at these facilities with lifesaving medications at reduced costs and provides help in managing chronic conditions. While the 340B program only impacts 2% of the pharmaceutical drugs sold nationwide, it significantly reduces Federal, State, and local health care spending, and enables hospitals and FQHCs such as those throughout Santa Barbara County to direct more of their scarce resources to direct health care services, as well as expanding access to community-based primary and specialty care.

The County urges you to consider cosponsoring H.R. 4392, and to ask your colleagues who serve on the committee to expedite approval of the measure or similar legislation to insure the continuation of a vibrant 340B Drug Pricing Program. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Don Gilcrest  
Washington Representative

DWG: awg