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February 25, 2015

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Health  
Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim McDermott  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Health  
Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Brady and Ranking Member McDermott:

On behalf of The Pew Charitable Trusts, an independent nonpartisan, nonprofit research and policy organization, we are writing to express support for section 12 of the Protecting the Integrity of Medicare Act of 2015, which would allow Medicare Part D plan sponsors to use drug management programs. These programs, which are also known as Patient Review and Restriction programs (PRRs), are a critical tool for addressing the nation's prescription drug abuse epidemic. PRRs work by requiring patients at risk of drug abuse to get their controlled substances from pre-designated prescribers and pharmacies, thereby allowing plan sponsors to better coordinate patient care and prevent inappropriate access to medications that are susceptible to abuse. Authorizing the use of PRRs in Medicare would improve drug therapy management, while also expanding the number of tools that are available to plan sponsors to combat prescription drug abuse.

The broad bipartisan support for these programs in Congress and in the FY 2016 Budget request for the Department of Health and Human Services reflects the shared interest in advancing this policy as an effective tool to decrease abuse of opioids and other controlled substances. Pew urges Congress to pass legislation that authorizes these programs in Medicare to help address the nation's prescription drug abuse epidemic.

Pew thanks you for your work to advance this important public health policy. We look forward to working with you to refine the proposal to ensure that these programs work as intended and maximize the potential of PRRs.

Sincerely,

Allan Coukell  
Senior Director, Health Programs  
The Pew Charitable Trusts

Cynthia Reilly  
Director, Prescription Drug Abuse  
The Pew Charitable Trusts