



May 17, 2018

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
United States Senate
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Stabenow,

On behalf of The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (MJFF), I write to express my support and appreciation for your legislation, S.2553, the *Know the Lowest Price Act of 2018*. It is estimated that nearly 1 million people in the United States have Parkinson's disease (PD), with an estimated annual economic burden of \$26.4 billion. MJFF is dedicated to safeguarding access to appropriate healthcare services and treatments for PD patients.

MJFF cautions against the continued implementation of unnecessary financial barriers for accessing prescription drugs. PD is a progressive neurological disorder and prompt access to the most affordable medications that are effective in treating the symptoms of PD and associated comorbidities are vital to PD patients' ability to suppress symptoms while maintaining their quality of life and independence.

Under current law, it is allowable for health insurance plans and/or pharmacy-benefits managers under Medicare or Medicare Advantage to prevent pharmacies/pharmacists from informing customers when their medication would be less expensive if they paid out of pocket, rather than utilize their health insurance plan. S. 2553 would prohibit these restrictions, known as "gag clauses," so that pharmacists will be free to provide important guidance to patients regarding how to effectively minimize their prescription drug costs.

MJFF applauds you for your authorship of this important piece of legislation and thanks you for your continued commitment to ensuring patients' access to the prescription drugs necessary to maintain their quality of life and independence. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Stephanie Katz at skatz@michaeljfox.org or by phone at 202-638-4101 ext. 352

Sincerely,

Ted Thompson, JD
Senior Vice President of Public Policy