

April 5, 2024

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
U.S. Senator for Ohio

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
U.S. Senator for Ohio

The Honorable J.D. Vance
U.S. Senator for Ohio

Dear Members of Congress,

My name is Veronica Brown and I am a nursing student at Firelands Regional Medical Center School of Nursing in Sandusky, Ohio. I am also employed in the medical-surgical unit at Firelands Regional Medical Center. I have been in healthcare for three years and am finishing the nursing program in a few weeks.

While working at the hospital, I have witnessed patients being admitted and readmitted for the same diagnosis. When diving further into their case, one of the common problems is medication adherence to prevent exacerbation of their illness. Some hospitals, such as Firelands, have programs in place to assist patients in meeting their needs after discharge. One of the largest barriers for these patients is the ability to pay for the remaining balance after insurance. Some patients opt for taking only half of their prescribed medications in an attempt to cut costs, but end up readmitted to a hospital in worse condition than before. The other group of these individuals are those who are not covered by insurance and are paying for their stay and all medications out of pocket. After their visit, these patients have a small chance of being able to afford the medications required to maintain their chronic diseases and prevent readmission to the hospital.

I am writing to you in regards to you to seek your support in the Expanding Access to Low-Cost Generics Act of 2023 bill. This bill would greatly cut costs and improve the access to medications. With the assistance of medication costs, individuals will be able to better maintain their health outside of the hospital. Medication adherence rates will improve and this will decrease the likelihood that patients will be readmitted for their chronic diseases. Allowing more manufacturers to make generic versions of brand-name drugs would allow a larger access to patients and decrease the overall cost of healthcare.

Please consider sponsoring this bill and allowing access to affordable medications. I can be reached by email at vcromwe98@gmail.com and would be more than happy to discuss this bill further. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Veronica Brown