Dear Representative/Senators [Insert Member of Congress Name]:

As a constituent, I urge you to address the unaffordable out-of-pocket costs in the Medicare Part D and work with your fellow members of Congress in a bipartisan manner to lower drug costs for patients. The challenge presented by high out-of-pocket costs has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the brunt of which has fallen disproportionally on older Americans and those living with chronic diseases, such as patients with Parkinson’s disease and movement disorders.

We recommend the next COVID-19 financial relief package include:

* An annual OOP cap in the Medicare Part D program;
* A mechanism to “smooth” patient OOP costs over a plan year; and
* A commitment that Part D reforms will not include international reference pricing or any other proposals that discount the value of a person’s life because of an individual’s disability, age, or chronic illness in coverage or reimbursement decision-making.

Addressing OOP costs must be a priority due to the magnitude of the problem. Even before the COVID- 19 pandemic, nearly 23 percent – equivalent to 58 million Americans – reported an inability to pay for a prescription within the past year. Not filling, delaying, or curtailing the use of prescription medications can have life-threatening consequences. As a result, excessive out-of-pocket drug costs can lead to patients making difficult choices between financial solvency and their health.

[Insert patient’s personal story on Part D out-of-pocket costs]

We call on Congress to include Part D reforms which will provide financial security to the most vulnerable older adults and patients. We must also work together to make sure that the tools by which we determine the value of medical treatments or medications do not discriminate against older adults, patients with chronic conditions, or people with disabilities.

Thank you for your service and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Enter Your First and Last Name]

[Enter Your City, State, Zip]

[Enter Your Contact Information]