



March 3, 2016

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
The Honorable Ron Wyden  
United States Senate Committee of Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6200

Dear Senators Grassley and Wyden:

On behalf of America's 1,200 Free and Charitable Clinics and the patients that we serve daily, I thank you for the opportunity to comment on the *Price of Sovaldi and its Impact on the US Health Care System Report*.

While the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics (NAFC) as well as our member clinics want the safest, most effective, and cutting edge drug therapies available for our patients and all patients, it can not be ignored that sole sourced medication can, and many times does, cause limited and unaffordable treatment options for low-income and medically underserved patients.

Access to affordable medication is critical for individuals to combat diagnosed diseases. The high costs of many medications make it almost impossible for the medically underserved and working poor to afford and remain compliant with necessary medication treatment therapies. In fact, 80% of Free and Charitable Clinics report that the high cost of medication is one of the largest challenges for the medically underserved in communities across our country. While our clinics utilize Patient Assistance Programs (PAPs) and receive donated medication through our supply chain partners, there are many medications, especially the most cutting edge sole sourced medication, that remain unavailable to our clinics and patients.

As the Committee reviews the *Sovaldi Report*, the NAFC strongly encourages the broader examination of medication affordability and accessibility for all generic, branded, and sole sourced medications. Affordable medication therapies are critical for the health and wellness of not only our patients, but also the country as a whole, and we stand ready to work with the members of the Committee to address this important issue.

I am available, at any time, to speak or meet with members of the Committee or staff and I may be reached by phone at 703-647-7427, or by email at [Nicole@nafcclinics.org](mailto:Nicole@nafcclinics.org)

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments and we look forward to working with you to address affordability and accessibility of medication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Nicole Lamoureux'.

Nicole Lamoureux  
Chief Executive Officer