



Free Medicine for Virginia's Uninsured

March 4, 2016

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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 Rx Partnership a statewide nonprofit in Virginia dedicated to increasing access to medication for the uninsured of our state, I appreciate the chance to comment on the *Price of Sovaldi and its Impact on the US Health Care System Report*.

While Rx Partnership wants the safest, most effective, and innovative drug therapies available for our patients and all patients, it cannot 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. While clinics utilize Patient Assistance Programs (PAPs), there are many medications, especially the most cutting edge sole sourced medications, that remain unavailable to our clinics and patients.

As the Committee reviews the *Sovaldi Report*, Rx Partnership 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 804-297-3173, or by email at AYarcich@RxPartnership.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,

Amy Yarcich, Executive Director

www.RxPartnership.org

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