July 7, 2017

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Baldwin:

The American Academy of Neurology (AAN), the world’s largest association of neurologists representing 32,000 professionals, is strongly committed to improving the care and outcomes of persons with neurologic illness in a cost-effective manner. We would like to express our strong support for the Fair Accountability and Innovative Research Drug Pricing Act.

One in six people live with a brain or nervous system condition, including Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, stroke, epilepsy, traumatic brain injury, ALS, multiple sclerosis, and headache. The annual cost of treating these disorders in the US is more than $500 billion, and prescription drugs for neurologic conditions are increasingly expensive. Neurologists seek to provide high-value care for their patients at the lowest cost possible, but high drug prices make it challenging to deliver care that is accessible and affordable for patients with complex neurologic conditions.

The AAN applauds your efforts to improve transparency in the cost of prescription medications. Specifically, we support requirements for drug manufacturers to report price increases of more than 10 percent over one year or 25 percent over three years. The costs of existing prescription drugs for neurologic conditions continue to increase and these reporting requirements would provide valuable notice for patients and physicians as well as important documentation of price changes over time. We also appreciate provisions of your legislation that require justifications for price increases and details on the components that impact the cost of specific drugs. The pricing process is difficult to understand without the transparency supported by your legislation. Many of these sentiments are included in our recent Prescription Drug Prices Position Statement, which was driven by members concerns about drug prices and the impact on their patients and practices.

Thank you for taking a leadership role on this critical issue. Please contact Amber Stock at astock@aan.com if you have questions or request additional information.

Sincerely,

Ralph L. Sacco, MD, MS, FAHA, FAAN
President, American Academy of Neurology