

July 26, 2025

Honorable Kamala Harris
Vice President of the United States
PO Box 96663
Washington, DC 20077-7085

Dear Vice President Harris;

My name is Larry Zarzecki, I am a retired Maryland law enforcement officer who has lived with Parkinson's disease for the last 12 years. As a Medicare enrollee, I am writing you today to thank you for the life-saving health care access and prescription drug affordability provisions that you and President Joe Biden helped to secure with the landmark Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. It has truly made a difference in my life, and it is critical that we protect this progress as we head into the November 2024 election.

Parkinson's is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that impacts movement, coordination, and cognitive processes. I have been living with this condition for over a decade, and it has had tremendous effect on my life. In 2013, because of the disease, I suffered a freezing episode at the top of a stairwell. My fall resulted in a traumatic brain injury and significant spinal damage, which required a nearly two-year long hospital stay where I had to learn how to walk and talk all over again. I am not one to give up easily, and since my diagnosis I have been working diligently to beat the odds and keep myself as healthy as possible, consulting with experts to identify diets, exercise, and medicines that can help keep my symptoms under control. With no existing cure, I know this is a battle I will fight for the rest of my life. Thankfully, there are prescription drugs that help to improve my symptoms; however, the price of these products has been nearly as detrimental to my life as the disease itself. Hospital bills, monthly drug costs, and copays have eaten through my retirement account and required me to sell my home. With monthly prescription drug costs that average at \$2,700, I am routinely faced with the impossible decision of deciding whether to "heat, eat, or treat." I have devoted much of my energy the last several years to advocating for critical change to prescription drug costs, including helping to pass Maryland's first-in-the-nation Prescription Drug Affordability Board law. I was overjoyed when the Inflation Reduction Act passed, as I knew it was the first time that countless Americans could trust that real relief was on the way.

As you know, the Inflation Reduction Act has already made significant progress in controlling health care costs in our country. From the \$35 per month cap on insulin for those on Medicare to the 15 million Americans who are saving an average of \$800 a year on their health insurance premiums, we are already feeling the positive impacts of this law. Personally, I am most looking forward to the new authority that Medicare has to negotiate with prescription drug corporations to keep costs down, and the annual \$2,000 cap on out-of-pocket costs for Medicare Part D enrollees. These changes together will save tens of millions of Americans from the physical and financial pain of expensive drugs. As for me, saving \$30,000 a year on my medicines will restore a quality of life that I have not been able to experience since my diagnosis. We must keep these

critical new benefits in place. In Maryland, I know that we are working to ensure this remains a priority for candidates. I was proud to see that Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative has called on all Maryland primary election winners running for Congress to commit to protecting the Inflation Reduction Act, should they be elected, and I was pleased to learn that the Committee to Protect Health Care is asking for a similar commitment from all candidates for the U.S. House and Senate across the nation.

I want to again thank you for the amazing progress we've made thanks to your Inflation Reduction Act. The significance of this election cannot be overstated, and I ask you today to ensure that this law remains a priority for you should you be elected President. I would greatly appreciate it if you could let me know by September 1, 2024 whether or not you agree to keeping in place the health care access and prescription drug affordability provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Zarzecki". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Larry Zarzecki

July 26, 2024

Honorable Donald J. Trump
Donald J. Trump for President 2024, Inc.
PO Box 13570
Arlington, VA 22219

Dear Former President Trump;

My name is Larry Zarzecki, I am a retired Maryland law enforcement officer who has lived with Parkinson's disease for the last 12 years. As a Medicare enrollee, I am writing you today to ask your support for the life-saving health care access and prescription drug affordability provisions of the landmark Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. It has truly made a difference in my life, and it is critical that we protect this progress as we head into the November 2024 election.

Parkinson's is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that impacts movement, coordination, and cognitive processes. I have been living with this condition for over a decade, and it has had tremendous effect on my life. In 2013, because of the disease, I suffered a freezing episode at the top of a stairwell. My fall resulted in a traumatic brain injury and significant spinal damage, which required a nearly two-year long hospital stay where I had to learn how to walk and talk all over again. I am not one to give up easily, and since my diagnosis I have been working diligently to beat the odds and keep myself as healthy as possible, consulting with experts to identify diets, exercise, and medicines that can help keep my symptoms under control. With no existing cure, I know this is a battle I will fight for the rest of my life. Thankfully, there are prescription drugs that help to improve my symptoms; however, the price of these products has been nearly as detrimental to my life as the disease itself. Hospital bills, monthly drug costs, and copays have eaten through my retirement account and required me to sell my home. With monthly prescription drug costs that average at \$2,700, I am routinely faced with the impossible decision of deciding whether to "heat, eat, or treat." I have devoted much of my energy the last several years to advocating for critical change to prescription drug costs, including helping to pass Maryland's first-in-the-nation Prescription Drug Affordability Board law. I was overjoyed when the Inflation Reduction Act passed, as I knew it was the first time that countless Americans could trust that real relief was on the way.

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The significance of this election cannot be overstated, and I ask you today to ensure that protecting this law will be a priority for you should you be elected President. I would greatly appreciate it if you could let me know by September 1, 2024 whether or not you agree to keeping in place the health care access and prescription drug affordability provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act.

Kind regards,

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Larry Zarzecki