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April 1, 2020

The Honorable Wanda Vázquez-Garced
Governor of Puerto Rico
La Fortaleza
San Juan, PR 00901

Dear Governor Vázquez-Garced:

It has been brought to my attention that some U.S. pharmacies on the Island are unable to serve Medicaid beneficiaries due to being excluded from the Puerto Rico Health Care Administration (ASES) network.

It is my understanding that both the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and ASES are in agreement to uphold practices of equal access and equal treatment among pharmacy companies. Thus, I respectfully request, within all applicable rules, laws and regulations, that this tenet be observed for all companies, local and national, that meet state and federal criteria and are able to provide pharmacy services to Medicaid beneficiaries.

As we continue facing the COVID-19 medical emergency, Island residents must have access to as many pharmacies and providers as possible. While I recognize and appreciate the careful thought and evaluation that goes into compiling a proper store and pharmacy network, this should not unnecessarily exclude viable and qualified candidates when we should be focusing on expanding services and options for constituents to access care and services.

I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jenniffer González-Colón".

Jenniffer González-Colón
Member of Congress

Cc: Jorge Galva, Director, Puerto Rico Health Care Administration
Dr. Lorenzo González, Secretary, Puerto Rico Department of Health