

My name is Christina Parrish and I am a Stage 4 Pancreatic Cancer Survivor and the Founder of The Purple Iris Foundation, based in Maine.

As a long term cancer survivor, my medical journey is a continuing effort on many fronts. I have had over 3 1/2 years of chemotherapy - which not only decimated my pancreas, but my body. The aftermath is blood sugar regulation issues and constant digestive issues which can be kept a little in line with enzymes, which have a hefty price tag (which they help from rarely happening). Also, the little talked about PTSD and Anxiety, which goes hand in hand with any cancer diagnosis. I am thankful that with medication, and meditation...I can help be more myself.

I not only have lived through a late stage cancer diagnosis, through my work with The Purple Iris Foundation, which provides patient aid and Fresh Food baskets to those battling cancer in Maine, I see the

struggles that Mainers and those across the United States struggle with to get the best treatments, affordable medication as well proper dental and eye care.

I believe that the Medicare program has long barred the use of QALY's in reimbursement and coverage decisions, recognizing that this metric discriminates against people with cancer and other serious health conditions. It's frustrating that state and federal policymakers continue to debate their use in public programs.

Also, we are in extreme need of more cutting edge research, treatments and potential cures for pancreatic cancer, and all cancers.

There are life threatening issues to life threatening conditions. I implore you to make the right choice and support the people in our great country that really need it the most.

I did not ask to get cancer but using a metric that discriminates against me, and others in my shoes, is and should be unconstitutional

To ensure all policy moves patients toward better care, Congress should endorse only policies that do not increase patient costs or limit access to the treatments they need.

Specifically, I urge Congress to abandon some of the policies that were included in the current bill, HR3, that would allow the government to set the price of prescription medications, since they would ultimately result in more restricted access to treatments for patients.

I feel that health care should remain accessible for all Americans including affordable prescription medications. It must always remain a top priority.

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