



## ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

May 1, 2020

The Honorable Jared Golden  
1223 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Buddy Carter  
2432 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Golden and Congressman Carter:

On behalf of the [Anxiety and Depression Association of America \(ADAA\)](#), a nonprofit professional membership organization dedicated to the prevention, treatment, and cure of anxiety, depression, OCD, PTSD, and co-occurring disorders through education, practice, and research, we write to express our support for the *Patients' Right to Know Their Medication Act ("bill")*. As an organization whose mission includes empowering patients to access evidence-based information and pursue effective treatments, we are encouraged by the introduction of this legislation and are pleased to support it.

Currently, patients often rely on the medication information that comes with their prescription drugs for important notices about side effects, drug interactions, and other issues. However, there is no federal standard for content or format of this information. Many patients are surprised to find out that there is no federal requirement that this information be included with prescriptions at all.

For patients taking psychotropic medicines or medication with depression and suicidal symptoms listed among their side effects, this is especially impactful: the printed information typically attached to prescription medication could include varied content or be in a different format depending on which pharmacy they choose. Inevitably, this can lead to confusion, difficulty in adhering to medication instructions, potentially adverse drug events, and unnecessary health care costs to the health system.

We believe this bill would remedy these problems and increase patient access to clear, correct, and FDA approved medication information. Specifically, the bill would require every prescription to come with a printed FDA approved, manufacturer-provided copy of easy to understand patient medication information. We are hopeful that this bill will encourage patients to learn about, understand, and comply with their medication instructions and therefore increase medication adherence while decreasing adverse drug events.

Thank you for the chance to share ADAA's support for this critical legislation. We look forward to working together to ensure its passage. If you have any questions, please reach me at [sgurley@adaa.org](mailto:sgurley@adaa.org).

Sincerely,

Susan

**[Susan Gurley](#)**  
Executive Director  
[sgurley@adaa.org](mailto:sgurley@adaa.org)