

Third-Party Organizations in Support of the Together Rx Access™ Card

ORGANIZATION	STATEMENT OF SUPPORT
AARP	"Millions of uninsured Americans today have trouble affording the prescription drugs they need. AARP applauds the Together Rx Access™ Card for taking a positive step in this effort, by helping those who qualify have access to more affordable drugs."
Alliance for Aging Research	"As the nation's leading citizen advocacy organization for improving the health and independence of Americans as they age, we feel it is our role to educate our baby boomer population on important programs such as Together Rx Access™. More than six million people today ages 50-64 are uninsured and we applaud the Together Rx Access™ member companies for developing this instrumental savings program that will help millions of uninsured Americans obtain the drugs they need."
Alzheimer's Foundation of America	"The Alzheimer's Foundation of America commends Together Rx Access™ for this innovative program to help make drugs for Alzheimer's disease, and many other health conditions, more accessible to low-income, uninsured Americans. There currently is no cure for Alzheimer's disease, and those living with the disease must rely on a host of drug therapies to control and slow the progression of their symptoms. The savings provided by discount prescription cards will significantly benefit individuals whose need for long-term treatment can become cost prohibitive. It is encouraging to see pharmaceutical companies working together to develop programs that are simple to use, and we hope this continues."
American Academy of Family Physicians	"The AAFP commends the Together Rx Access™ program for taking the initiative to help America's uninsured who do not have coverage for prescription products. Prescription drug benefit programs are an effective stopgap measure for providing discounts for those who need it most. However, these programs are not a substitute for Congressional action that guarantees healthcare coverage, including prescription drug coverage, to all in America."
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners	"We are particularly interested in programs that provide affordable access to medications and support endeavors that will help to achieve that goal. It is our understanding that this new initiative will offer new tools to address a serious lack of treatment available to the underserved community. We look forward to the implementation of this option for uninsured populations with medication needs."

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American Academy of Physician Assistants	"Positive outcomes are enhanced when healthcare professionals have the freedom to prescribe a wide variety of medications with the confidence that their patients will be able to afford these therapies. The Together Rx Access™ Card helps provide that freedom to millions of uninsured and underinsured Americans. The American Academy of Physician Assistants applauds the member companies for their efforts to make prescription drugs accessible to this underserved community. We look forward to working with them to educate eligible individuals about the Together Rx Access™ Card and the savings it can provide."
American Association of Persons with Disabilities	"As the largest national nonprofit cross-disability member organization in the United States, we are proud to support the Together Rx Access™ program, which will help thousands of Americans with disabilities. People with disabilities and chronic health conditions are disproportionately uninsured or underinsured. We applaud the founding members of Together Rx Access™ for developing a program that will help this underserved population have better access to care through savings on vital prescription medications."
American Heart Association	"Prescription medications play a critical role in the treatment of stroke, heart disease and their risk factors, such as high blood pressure and high cholesterol. However, financial barriers prevent many hard-working Americans who lack prescription drug coverage from getting the treatment they need. The American Heart Association believes it will be critical for both the public and private sectors to contribute to recognizing and addressing this need. We applaud all efforts to bring the benefits of science to all our citizens, especially those most in need."
American Medical Women's Association	"The American Medical Women's Association (AMWA), the oldest and largest multispecialty organization of women physicians in the world, believes that this type of support by the pharmaceutical industry is a critical component in our nation's tattered "safety net" for the poor! It is especially important for women, as they outnumber men in seeking medical care and are, in the majority of cases, the medical decision-makers for families. This type of support is used by free clinics, public health departments, private physicians and social service providers to help low-income people stretch their scarce dollars and better meet their often significant healthcare challenges. As the Vision and Voice of Women in Medicine, AMWA welcomes the efforts of all sectors of our economy to contribute to universal healthcare for all Americans."

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American Osteopathic Association	"One of the American Osteopathic Association's (AOA) core healthcare policy principles is to work with Congress, the Administration, the states, and the private sector to ensure that Americans have access to the highest quality medical care in the world. The osteopathic profession has a proud history of providing medical care to rural and urban underserved areas. We applaud the Together Rx Access™ Card as a way to assist patients under age 65 who have no public or private prescription drug coverage."
The Arthritis Foundation	"The Arthritis Foundation supports efforts to improve access to prescription drugs and biological therapies for low-income Americans living with arthritis. This program represents an important step forward until the day we can provide comprehensive health insurance coverage for all Americans."
Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum	"One of the most concerning healthcare issues facing Asian and Pacific Islander Americans today is lack of health insurance. We welcome this much-needed assistance from Together Rx Access™, so that the uninsured can have better access to quality healthcare and life-saving medicines."
Association of Black Cardiologists	"The Association of Black Cardiologists supports Together Rx Access™. The program will play an instrumental role in the lives of low-income, uninsured Americans. The card will provide savings on a wide range of medications – including those that treat high blood pressure, lipids, diabetes and heart disease, which are disorders that disproportionately affect the African-American community. We look forward to helping our eligible patients enroll in this important program."
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved	"We are very proud to support the Together Rx Access™ Card. As an association, our mission is to improve the health of underserved populations. With over 45 million uninsured in our country, it is imperative that government, private sector and community work together to create solutions for the growing need. We commend these member companies for creating an option that is accessible to our patient population."

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California Academy of Family Physicians	"On behalf of the members of the California Academy of Family Physicians, I'd like to thank your organization for coordinating the Together Rx Access™ Card. This card program will offer qualified families immediate help in solving the widespread problems of healthcare access. The CAFP has a long-standing policy supporting universal healthcare coverage for all. We understand the social, political and economic issues facing our patients who have limited access to care, and limited access to the pharmaceuticals they require. It is our hope that the Access Card will be an easy and efficient way for our members to help their patients receive immediate assistance for the potentially life-saving prescription drugs they require."
California Black Health Network	"In 2003, the number of African Americans without health insurance was about 7.3 million, and today, more than 20 percent of uninsured black adults are unable to get the medical care they need. In a prosperous nation, these numbers are simply unacceptable. The California Black Health Network has been working to improve the health status of African Americans in California. We feel that the Together Rx Access™ Card will help do just that – improve access to healthcare and improve the overall health of African Americans not just in California, but across the United States."
Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation	"Many types of cancer — including lung, breast, prostate, colorectal, cervical, skin, oral and testicular — can be prevented, managed or cured through early detection and treatment in their early stages. However, for the uninsured, access to treatment can be limited, and life-saving drugs are often cost-prohibitive. The Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation commends these pharmaceutical companies for providing valuable savings on a host of medications that could dramatically improve the lives of those living with cancer."
Easter Seals	"Easter Seals enthusiastically endorses the Together Rx Access™ initiative. We commend the industry for its leadership in bringing a wide range of prescription medicines to uninsured, low-income individuals and families. This effort will alleviate financial pressure on thousands of individuals and families who await the resolution of the national issue of healthcare coverage for the uninsured."

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Epilepsy Foundation	"Lack of affordable health insurance -- and particularly insurance that covers prescription medicines -- is the biggest barrier to quality healthcare in this country today. For people who must rely upon medication to control their health condition -- like people with epilepsy -- there are no reasonable and affordable alternatives to good health insurance coverage that includes prescription drugs. While we continue to urge Congress to broadly address the problem of the uninsured, we applaud the voluntary action private companies are taking to help Americans most in need by offering the Together Rx™ Access Card for the non-Medicare population."
Federation of American Hospitals	"For many Americans who lack health insurance or whose health coverage does not include drugs, the affordability of necessary medicines can be a real challenge. Lack of insurance often creates a barrier to treatment, particularly for those low-income Americans with chronic or life-threatening illnesses. That is why we want to congratulate the pharmaceutical companies who are stepping in to help address this major concern by sponsoring the Together Rx Access™ Card. This new program will make a difference in the lives of these uninsured and underinsured Americans."
Healthcare Leadership Council	"Today is an important step forward in meeting America's greatest healthcare challenge. We know that providing accessible, high-quality healthcare to the millions of Americans currently without health insurance is not a mission that will be achieved overnight or with a single solution. It will take creativity and determination from both the private and public sectors to get this critical job done. Today, we're seeing a number of companies step up to meet this challenge. The Healthcare Leadership Council wholeheartedly and enthusiastically supports this action by the Together Rx Access™ Card partners. Those who are uninsured are more likely to go without preventive care and to be stricken with illnesses that could have been avoided. Access to prescription medicines will provide better health and fewer emergency room visits. There are policy steps that need to be taken to ensure that the nation's hard-working families have access to private health coverage. Until those actions occur, though, the companies behind the Together Rx Access™ program deserve commendation for helping more Am

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Hispanic Federation	"The Hispanic Federation serves as a membership network of 84 Latino health and human service agencies in the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut area. Many of our 84 agencies have health or health-related programs that serve Hispanic families, and these agencies can attest to the hardships that are experienced by working families when paying for prescription drugs. The health disparities for Latinos in the U.S. are related to the lack of health coverage as well as the lack of access to bilingual, bi-cultural health professionals. Given the cost of medical care and prescription drugs in this country, we welcome programs such as the Together Rx Access™ Card that offer working families an opportunity to obtain prescription drugs at a savings to them."
Institute for Medication Access and Compliance	"We strive to dramatically improve the healthcare of our nation's 45+ million underserved residents, and we commend Together Rx Access™ for taking a giant step forward in helping our nation's uninsured. It is imperative that people take the medications they need and as prescribed. Giving the uninsured assistance with their prescriptions will definitely help patients improve their ability to be compliant with taking their medications as prescribed."
Kidney Cancer Association	"The Kidney Cancer Association places a high priority on patient access to safe medicines. We are always looking for ways to help those who are uninsured or underinsured. We applaud the pharmaceutical industry for its collaborative effort to create the Together Rx Access™ Card. This year, more than 34,000 Americans will be told they have kidney cancer. The Together Rx Access™ Card helps patients to have better access to the medicines they need."
Lupus Foundation of America	"An estimated 1.5 million Americans have a form of lupus, and many more are indirectly affected by the physical, social and economic impact of the disease. The Lupus Foundation of America, Inc. enthusiastically supports the new Together Rx Access™ initiative to improve access to prescription medicines for our nation's low-income individuals and families. This important program will serve as a new tool for people with lupus who lack prescription drug coverage, and thus have difficulty paying for their medicines. We offer our thanks and congratulations to the Together Rx Access™ companies for stepping in to help solve a very serious problem in America."

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Men's Health Network	"Over the last thirty years, men's health has suffered a crisis. The ratio of male mortality over female mortality has increased in every age category. Men are also less likely than women to have health insurance. Limited access to needed prescription drugs for uninsured and underinsured men, particularly those with chronic illnesses, creates a very real barrier to health improvement. The Men's Health Network enthusiastically supports Together Rx Access™'s new initiative to provide prescription products to our nation's uninsured individuals and families. This important program will offer new tools to address a serious lack of treatment available to this underserved community."
Mental Health Association in New York State	"The Mental Health Association in New York (MHANYS) supports Together Rx Access™. These discount prescription cards will help provide relief for uninsured New Yorkers who are struggling to pay for their prescriptions. MHANYS is a voluntary not-for-profit statewide association with 31 local affiliates in communities throughout New York State. The mission of MHANYS is to ensure that the public mental health policy is fair, just and promotes equality and opportunity."
Mental Health Association in North Carolina (MHA/NC)	"The MHA/NC wishes to thank these ten companies for putting together the Together Rx Access™ program. The MHA/NC strongly believes that this creative initiative will be a life-saving and life-changing initiative for many across the state. The MHA/NC will be pleased to provide information about this new initiative to its more than 50 affiliates and more than 15,000 members across the state. On behalf of the MHA/NC, the consumers we seek to serve, their families and others thank you for this new endeavor that will save and enhance the lives of countless individuals across the state."
National Alliance for Caregiving	"Improving access to healthcare for the uninsured requires cooperation between both the public and private sectors. However, too little progress is being made in this arena. The National Alliance for Caregiving is encouraged to see pharmaceutical companies coming together to ensure that hard-working low-income Americans receive affordable and convenient access to prescription drugs. There are 44.4 million family caregivers in the United States – many of whom must understand and manage a host of medical issues on behalf of the family members they care for. The ability for the uninsured to obtain savings on prescription drugs is, for both patients and caregivers, a major step forward."

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National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI)	"Millions of Americans are living with mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression and severe anxiety disorders. Many lack health insurance and struggle every day to access treatment. Regardless of whether they have insurance coverage, it is critically important for each and every one of them to be able to access the medications they need. NAMI applauds the Together Rx Access™ sponsoring companies for understanding the needs of uninsured individuals and families living with mental illness and responding to their needs. Through this new program, these companies will be helping to ensure that the right medications get to the people who so desperately need them."
The National Association For Continence	"The National Association For Continence applauds member companies providing the Together Rx Access™ Card for stepping forward to ensure that hard-working, low-income Americans can receive affordable access to recommended prescription drugs. Incontinence is a medical condition that affects an estimated 25 million Americans, and treatment may involve a regimen of prescribed medications. Approximately 80 percent of those affected by urinary incontinence can be cured or improved; however, they may not have the insurance to cover those medicines they need. This savings card can make a real difference in the lives of these individuals."
National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS)	"NACDS congratulates the Together Rx Access™ member companies for coming together to offer savings on prescription medicines to people who lack health insurance, while still granting them access to their trusted pharmacists. The National Association of Chain Drug Stores recognizes the challenges faced by uninsured and underinsured Americans whose lack of insurance may have threatened their health. This card will make prescription medications more accessible to those who lack health insurance, and help provide real savings on valuable medicines for those most in need."
National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO)	"These ten companies have taken a leadership role in making prescription drugs more accessible to the most in need in our community through the new Together Rx Access™ Card. Others in the industry should join in this effort to ensure the uninsured have better access to a healthier well being."

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National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease (WomenHeart)	"Statistically, among people ages 55-64, women are more likely than men to be uninsured. Because many women must take multiple medications for their health and well-being, this card is so important in providing improved access to these drugs for women who lack health insurance. Every day we hear of women who cannot afford the drugs they are prescribed because they lack adequate coverage to get the prescriptions they need. We support the Together Rx Access™ program for addressing this devastating problem."
National Community Pharmacists Association	"The nation's independent pharmacists are small business entrepreneurs and multifaceted health care providers who represent a vital part of the United States' healthcare delivery system. The National Community Pharmacists Association believes in the power of community, and we are heartened by the efforts of these pharmaceutical companies who are showing outstanding leadership by working together to offer real discounts on much-needed medicines for people who lack health insurance. We look forward to working with them in communities across the country to help ensure that the Together Rx Access™ Card reaches those it is designed to help."
National Family Caregivers Association	"America's 50 million family caregivers provide over 80 percent of all long-term care for loved ones who are chronically ill or disabled. Unfortunately in the process, many family caregivers suffer physically, emotionally and financially. Research shows that caregiving families have lower incomes than the typical American family, but much higher out-of-pocket medical expenses. Although no one knows how many caregiving families are uninsured, anecdotal evidence suggests that in many cases either the caregiver or the care recipient lacks access to the medical care they need. This is particularly ironic, since caregiving families by definition need more medical attention than non-caregiving families. That's why the National Family Caregivers Association (NFCA) is so pleased that the Together Rx Access™ Card member companies have stepped up to the plate and have made access to prescription drugs for those in need a priority."

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<p>National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry</p>	<p>“For millions of low and moderate income rural Americans under the age of 65 who lack insurance coverage for their prescription drugs, the Together Rx Access™ Card will provide significant savings on their family medical bills. The need for better access to prescription medications in rural areas is critical. According to the Maine Rural Health Research Center and the Rural Policy Research Institute, 32.2 percent of rural Americans report being in poor health vs. 25.7 percent urban; 37.8 percent of rural Americans have serious, life-threatening chronic conditions vs. 33.6 percent of urban Americans; and 46.1 percent of rural Americans have no prescription drug coverage compared to 30.1 percent of urban citizens who go without any prescription drug coverage.</p> <p>Rural residents, who generally have lower incomes than urban dwellers, spend a higher proportion of personal income on prescription drug coverage than urban residents. The higher proportion of out-of-pocket prescription drug costs among rural working families increases the risk that they will either neglect the medications or take lower dosages. The National Grange commends the ten founding member companies of the Together Rx Access™ Card for their pro-active response to increasing access to healthcare and improving the quality of life in rural communities and across the nation.”</p>
<p>National Health Council</p>	<p>“The National Health Council commends Together Rx Access™ for creating a prescription drug savings program that benefits uninsured Americans. The approach taken by the Together Rx Access™ program certainly supports our mission, which is to improve the health of all people, particularly those with chronic diseases and/or disabilities. We all must work together toward improving the health of our citizens, and this new program is an important step toward that objective.”</p>

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National Hispanic Medical Association	"On behalf of the National Hispanics Medical Association (NHMA), we are happy to support the vision and leadership of all the partners who have established the Together Rx Access™ Card program. The Hispanic population, which is the largest ethnic group without health insurance in the United States, stands to greatly benefit by your program. Factors such as language, cultural barriers, lack of access to preventive care and lack of health insurance contribute to poor health outcomes among Hispanics. At a time when basic medicines needed by uninsured Hispanics are unattainable due to a lack of insurance with prescription drug benefits, NHMA lauds the Together Rx Access™ Card program for helping to make these essential medicines available to Hispanics in need. Established in 1994 in Washington, D.C., the NHMA represents licensed Hispanic physicians in the United States. The mission of the NHMA is to improve the health of Hispanics and the underserved."
National Interfaith Coalition on Aging (James Firman, President & CEO, The National Council on the Aging)	"The National Interfaith Coalition on Aging and The National Council on the Aging applaud Together Rx Access™ for its socially responsible commitment to improving the quality of life for Americans who do not have health insurance. By improving access to prescription drugs, many more people will be able to stay healthy and be more financially secure."
National Kidney Foundation	"The National Kidney Foundation salutes the efforts of Novartis, Abbott, AstraZeneca, Aventis, Bristol-Myers Squibb, GlaxoSmithKline, Takeda, Pfizer, TAP Pharmaceuticals and Johnson & Johnson, the members of Together Rx Access™, in providing prescription drug savings to America's uninsured. Chronic kidney disease affects 20 million Americans, many of whom require prescription medications in order to manage related conditions so that the progression of kidney disease to kidney failure can be slowed. Together Rx Access™ is an important initiative that has the potential to improve the health of millions of Americans."
National Medical Association	"The Together Rx Access™ Card offers hard-working families immediate help in solving the widespread problem of pharmaceutical healthcare access. With approximately 45 million people in this country lacking healthcare coverage, the Access Card is an easy and efficient way for families in need to realize instant savings on much needed prescription drugs."

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National Mental Health Association	“For millions of people with mental illness, access to mental health treatment and services is crucial to living healthy, productive lives. And yet, many people with mental health service needs receive no care at all, and even fewer receive appropriate care. We applaud the goals of programs like Together Rx Access™ to help more people obtain the treatments they need.”
National Puerto Rican Coalition	"The Together Rx Access™ Card will provide much-needed assistance to millions of Americans who lack health insurance and need help paying for their prescription medicines. Given that Latinos are disproportionately represented among the ranks of the uninsured, the National Puerto Rican Coalition is pleased to support this important program.”
National Stroke Association	"Our country faces a crisis with uninsured Americans. Millions are not able to get the medical care they need, and prescription medications play a critical role in the treatment of stroke and its risk factors, such as high blood pressure and high cholesterol. The National Stroke Association commends the Together Rx Access™ member companies for recognizing and addressing this need with the new Together Rx Access™ Card. We are excited about the potential of this program to help all uninsured Americans, including many of the four million stroke survivors in our country.”
National Women’s Health Resource Center	“Improving access to healthcare for the uninsured requires cooperation between both the public and private sectors, but too little progress is being made in this arena. We commend the Together Rx Access™ Card member companies for stepping forward to ensure that hard-working, low-income Americans receive affordable and convenient access to prescription drugs. It perfectly complements the National Women's Health Resource Center's efforts to provide access to health information and resources so that women can make informed decisions about their health. Information and access are two halves of the whole that can lead to wellness and disease prevention.”
NH Medication Bridge Program – Foundation for Healthy Communities Bernie Cameron, Coordinator	“The NH Medication Bridge Program has been waiting for a long time for a card program for younger people. The Together Rx™ Card has been very popular with Med Bridge because it's so easy to use, and I'm sure that Together Rx Access™ will be equally as popular. I'm also very happy to see the eligibility at 300 percent FPL (Federal Poverty Level) because that will include individuals who are not eligible for many Patient Assistance Programs that stop at 200 percent FPL.”

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Patient Advocate Foundation	"For many families, prescription medication, while often a necessity, is simply not affordable without insurance coverage. We seek to ensure that patients have access to care, and we help empower them to take control of their own healthcare. It is wonderful to see a new program that can improve our constituents' access to the prescription medicines they need."
Society for Women's Health Research	"The Society for Women's Health Research has worked for over 14 years to assure that the public -- especially women -- have access to the medical care that meets their unique healthcare needs, including prescription drugs. Women suffer disproportionately from chronic diseases, causing them to rely more on prescription drugs to alleviate their symptoms and improve quality of life. The Together Rx Access™ Card program for America's uninsured represents another step toward making sure that those Americans who do not have coverage for prescription products will now have the access they need."
Visiting Nurse Associations of America	"As the voice of home healthcare, the Visiting Nurse Associations of America advocates for compassionate, high-quality and cost-effective home care for individuals in their respective communities. We recognize the importance of prescription drugs in the lives of our patients, and we commend the Together Rx Access™ Card for making improved access to these drugs a priority."
The Wellness Community	"The Wellness Community strives to ensure that all people with cancer have access to affordable, quality healthcare. Too many of our nation's families dealing with cancer do not have health insurance, and struggle to afford the medications they need to manage cancer and its many side effects. Until policymakers solve the larger issue of healthcare coverage for the uninsured, the Together Rx Access™ Card will provide immediate access to savings on a wide range of critical medications for those in need."
Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians	"The Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians has been and continues to be a strong supporter of efforts to provide safe and affordable access to prescription drugs for all patients. We applaud the efforts of Together Rx Access™ in providing another vehicle to help patients obtain needed medication. We encourage the continued development of such programs to address the high cost of prescription drugs."