The Value of the 340B Drug Pricing Program to the Community We Serve
Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center, Boise, Idaho

Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center (SARMC) is the sole regional Level II Trauma Center serving Southwest Idaho, Eastern Oregon, and Northern Nevada, serving as a vital cornerstone of the healthcare landscape for a large geographic region. Our Mission to serve as a compassionate and transforming healing presence within our communities is supported by our core values of Reverence, Commitment to Those Who are Poor, Justice, Stewardship, and Integrity. Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center provides access to life-saving care in addition to providing for the basic healthcare needs of the community.

THE BENEFITS OF THE 340B DRUG PRICING PROGRAM: Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center responds to the needs of communities across our region in many ways. The savings we receive from the 340B Drug Pricing program help us respond to community needs by allowing us to:

- Partner with local organizations (Jesse Tree of Idaho, Home Partnership Foundation, CATCH and LEAP Housing Solutions) to address affordable housing, a top priority need identified in the current community health needs assessment. Over the past four years, SARMC has collaborated with local developers to create innovative solutions to bring more housing – often with accompanying amenities to support additional needs such as food security, job attainment, childcare, etc. – to individuals and families so they can remain stably housed and employed in their communities.

- Partner with LEAP Housing Solutions to bring about Caritas Commons, an affordable housing development built on a land trust to make the property and the homes built upon it affordable in perpetuity.

- Develop Community Health Worker Hub to assess and engage in addressing the social influencers of health such as access to food, housing, childcare, financial assistance, medication assistance and access to medical care. Community Health Workers (CHW) focus on connecting patients and community members to local social care resources.

- Support the Rides 2 Wellness program in partnership with Valley Regional Transit to provide transportation for health care appointments.
• Partner with the City of Boise and other local nonprofits to provide supportive services to chronically homeless individuals housed at the New Path Community Housing facility (pictured at right). These individuals tend to have a high prevalence of chronic physical and mental health conditions, and by providing housing and supportive services, cost savings are predicted as ER/hospital and jail stays are reduced.

• Provide generous financial support and clinical training sites for medical education and physician residency training programs, including Family Practice, Psychiatric, Dental and Internal Medicine, addressing significant workforce shortages. Also significantly support nursing and other allied health professional’s workforce programs at Boise State University, College of Western Idaho, and other institutions to "grow" the necessary workforce to meet the needs of a rapidly growing community.

• Provide mobile outreach clinics that serve low-income neighborhoods with high levels of uninsured, undocumented and refugee patients. For example, the Saint Alphonsus Faith Community Nurses provide regular foot clinics for chronically homeless individuals, to prevent serious foot problems such as diabetic foot ulcers that could cause ER visits or hospitalization (pictured at right).

• Provide critical medical services such as an infusion center that have chronically low reimbursement and negative margins but fulfill a vital community need.

• Support additional staffing to provide extended pharmacy hours 7 days per week to our patients and providing financial assistance to patients unable to afford their prescriptions.

• Offer free vaccinations and perform screenings for blood pressure, glucose, and cholesterol to local underserved patient populations.

**LIKELY IMPACT IF THE 340B DRUG PRICING PROGRAM WERE TO BE SCALED BACK:** If the 340B program were to be scaled back, Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center would be forced to make difficult decisions such as drastically reducing clinical care and drug access to indigent, uninsured, and underinsured patients. The 340B drug pricing program helps us provide critical health care services to those most vulnerable in our community.