

August 5, 2022

Dear Members of Congress,

Congress can make history in the next week by passing the most expansive and powerful reforms to help Americans afford prescription drugs since enactment of the Medicare Part D benefit in 2003. On behalf of more than 75 organizations representing patients, consumers, seniors, unions, small businesses, employers, physicians, nurses, and disease advocacy and human rights organizations, we urge the Senate to immediately pass the *Inflation Reduction Act*.

The legislation is truly historic because for the first time ever it will:

- Require Medicare to negotiate directly with pharmaceutical corporations for lower drug prices — a reform that has been sought for almost 20 years;
- Discourage drug companies from increasing their prices faster than the rate of inflation, a reform that has special importance right now as we seek to curb the rising cost of everyday expenses;
- Cap annual out-of-pocket costs for Medicare beneficiaries at \$2,000 when they are currently unlimited and can run to more than [\\$15,000](#) and expand the Part D low-income subsidies by expanding the income threshold for eligibility from 135 percent to 150 percent of the federal poverty level.

In a time of great division in our nation this legislation has overwhelmingly bipartisan support. [More than 70 percent](#) of Republicans, Democrats, and independents back each of these reforms, which have consistently been the [most popular](#) element under discussion for reconciliation. Congress can pass these drug pricing reforms before the August recess and move the nation in a new direction, providing savings to patients, taxpayers, workers, and employers. [CBO estimates](#) savings of almost \$300 billion to the Federal government alone.

Rising prices are a [top concern](#) for American families and employers. Undeterred by the financial hardship and health challenges facing Americans today as a result of the pandemic, drug companies have already raised the prices of their products [almost 1,200 times](#) in the first seven months of the year — more than in the same period in 2020 and 2021.

Congress must seize this opportunity to stop the pharmaceutical industry from overcharging Americans with astronomical prices for brand-name drugs. Patients, workers, employers, and taxpayers should not continue to shoulder the burden of prices in this country that are [nearly three times](#) what people in other comparable nations pay.

Congress can make history in the next week. Pass the *Inflation Reduction Act* and send it to the President for his signature. Not only will it break the pharmaceutical industry's unilateral power to dictate prices to the American people, it will save lives, improve health, curb the impact of inflation, and put more money back into the pockets of American seniors, workers, and businesses.

Congress has repeatedly promised to address this problem, and the American people need the help now more than ever.

Signed:

AARP

AFGE Local 704

AHEC West (Maryland Area Health Education Center West)

AIDS Healthcare Foundation

Alliance for Retired Americans

Alliance of Community Health Plans

American Academy of Neurology

American Federation of Teachers

Black Health Commission

Blue Shield of California

Building Back Together

Campaign for a Family Friendly Economy

Centennial State Prosperity

Center for American Progress

Center for Popular Democracy

Children's Action Alliance

Colorado Consumer Health Initiative

Committee to Protect Health Care

Communications Workers of America

Community Catalyst

Consumer Action

COVID Survivors for Change

Crohn's and Colitis Young Adults Network

Democratic Disability Caucus of Florida

Doctors for America

Families USA

For Our Future Action Fund

Generation Patient

Health Access CA

Health Care For All Massachusetts
Health Care Voices
Heath Action New Mexico
Hispanic Federation
Honest Arizona
Human Rights Watch
Invest in America Action
Kentucky Voices for Health
KS Business Group on Health
Latino Victory
Lower Drug Prices Now
Main Street Alliance
Maryland Health Care For All Coalition
Medicare for All Coalition
Medicare Rights Center
Metro New York Health Care for All
Missouri Health Care for All
MomsRising
MoveOn Civic Action
National Health Law Program
National MS Society
Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
New Jersey Citizen Action
Nurses for America
Oregonizers
Patients For Affordable Drugs Now
Pennsylvania Health Access Network
People's Action
Prescription Justice
Protect Our Care
Public Citizen
R2H Action [Right to Health]
Salud y Farmacos
SEIU
Social Security Works
SWAA CT Coordinating committee
T1International USA
TakeActionMN
Tennessee Health Care Campaign
The AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland

The 99% Pennsylvania campaign of the Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center
The Consortium
United States of Care
Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut
Unrig Our Economy
Voices for Progress
West Health Institute
West Virginians for Affordable Health Care