**SAMPLE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Tired of waiting for Congress to act**

Dear Editor,

Those with chronic conditions cannot wait any longer – Congress must do something about high prescription drug prices. I have multiple sclerosis (MS) and take [DRUGNAME]; when it was first introduced in [YEAR], it was [PRICE] – it is now [PRICE]. In fact, six drugs to treat MS have increased in price more than 200% since they came on market. That’s not innovation and drugs can’t save lives if no one can afford them. It is time to cap out-of-pocket prescription drug costs in Medicare, spread those costs throughout the year so enrollees won't have to face their highest healthcare expenses in the first few months, allow Medicare to negotiate drug prices and receive a rebate if the costs rise higher than inflation. Together these policies would make a real impact on the high cost of prescription drugs and the high out-of-pocket spending Americans face to access needed medications. It is time for the US Senate to do their part – they must act now.

Sincerely,

NAME

CITY, STATE

**What we risk due to high prescription drug prices**

Dear Editor,

When I was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) in [YEAR], I knew I would face many challenges. I did not anticipate that paying for my medications would be one of the most stressful. I take [DRUGNAME] – when it was introduced, it was [PRICE] – it is now [PRICE]. Sadly, that’s not unusual; six drugs to treat MS have increased in price more than 200% since they came on market. Those are enormous price increases year after year for the same medication, rising much faster than inflation. The US House passed a set of policies to lower drug prices and out-of-pocket costs months ago. The Senate must now act. Every day Congress delays, people with MS make the difficult decision to stop taking their medication due to cost and risk disease progression from which they won’t recover. I fear that someday soon I will be forced to take that risk.

Sincerely,

NAME
CITY, STATE

**Dire consequences of high price of prescription drugs**

Dear Editor,

I write to share the dire impact of the high price of prescription drugs, specifically those to treat multiple sclerosis (MS). MS is a chronic and often disabling disease and symptoms vary widely; I experience [2-4 examples such as fatigue, depression, difficulty walking, pain, etc.] Thankfully, there are disease modifying therapies (DMTs) to manage MS progression, but they are extremely expensive – the median annual price of MS DMTs is close to $94,000, and nine now cost more than $100,000. I am on [DRUGNAME] and even with health insurance, I must pay [PRICE] per month just for this one medication. To afford that, my family must make significant sacrifices - we [cut our grocery budget, sometimes fall behind on our rent or mortgage or other bills, cannot fill other needed prescriptions, postpone saving for retirement, etc.]. This is unacceptable and Congress must take action now to lower the cost of prescription drugs, including those to treat MS.

Sincerely,

NAME

CITY, STATE

**The sacrifices made to afford MS medications**

Dear Editor,

I write to you as a reader living with multiple sclerosis (MS), a chronic and often disabling condition that affects nearly one million people in the United States. While a cure for MS has not yet been discovered, treatment with “disease modifying therapies”, or DMTs, are the best way to manage MS and prevent disability. I take the DMT [NAME], which is [PRICE] - even with insurance my family must pay [COPAY OR COINSURANCE] per [YEAR/MONTH]. These prices are not affordable and require sacrifices elsewhere. What do these sacrifices look like for my family in [CITY/TOWN]?

  [Think of personal examples to use as bullets – here are some examples:]

* Less money for basic living expenses like shelter; transportation; food
* Less money to put in savings for a rainy day; tuition; retirement
* Less money to make memories with family and friends – vacation, travel, celebrations
* Needing to put off or forego retirement
* Sacrifices made early in the year, before deductible is met

I am not alone in making these sacrifices. The time is now for Congress to take swift action to lower the cost of drugs, including DMTs used to treat MS.

Sincerely,

NAME

CITY, STATE