August 16, 2023

Dear Executives of Merck & Co., Bristol Myers Squibb Company, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Astellas Pharma US, PhRMA, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other chambers of commerce,

The lawsuits filed by your corporations and associations to overturn the Medicare drug price negotiation law signed by President Biden one year ago today are unconscionable. Our organizations demand that you withdraw your lawsuits and instead negotiate lower drug prices.

Despite being the largest purchaser of prescription drugs in the world, drug corporations’ prices under Medicare Part D are significantly higher than those paid in other countries. Drug corporations routinely charge patients in the United States twice or more of what they charge patients in other large, wealthy countries – even in cases where U.S. taxpayers supported the drug’s development. For top-selling drugs worldwide, drug corporations consistently make more money from U.S. sales than the rest of the world combined. Drug corporations’ prices for Medicare Part D even outstrip those paid by other government health programs, like Medicaid and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Aging Americans and people with disabilities and chronic health conditions bear the brunt of these excessive prices. No one should have to go into debt, go without life-saving medicines or choose between prescriptions and other basic needs like groceries and rent. Yet millions across this nation do.

The Inflation Reduction Act established into law enormously popular, commonsense reforms to lower prices and expand access to medicines for millions of Medicare beneficiaries, including empowering Medicare to negotiate lower prices directly with prescription drug corporations. These reforms are projected to save patients and consumers tens of billions of dollars and expand access while ensuring innovation and drug corporations’ ability to achieve enormous financial success.

We stand with patients across the country whose lives and well-being depend on access to affordable prescription drugs. We will not relinquish these commonsense reforms while high drug prices remain a matter of life and death for so many Americans. We call on you to stop suing Medicare and negotiate lower prices now.

Sincerely,

ACA Consumer Advocacy
ACT UP New York
AIDS Foundation Chicago
AlaskansTakeAStand/ StandUpAlaska
American Economic Liberties Project
Arkansas Community Organizations
Be a Hero
Beta Cell Action
Big Sky 55+
California Alliance for Retired Americans
Center for Independence of the Diabled, NY (CIDNY)
Center for Medicare Advocacy
Center for Popular Democracy

Citizen Action/Illinois
Coalition on Human Needs
Communities United
Consumer Action
Cross-union Retirees Organizing Committee (CROC)
Doctors for America
Economic Opportunity Institute
EPIC- Ensuring Parole for Incarcerated Citizens Families USA
Fdn for Integrative AIDS Research (FIAR)
Feed Your Hood Organization
Georgians for a Healthy Future