

February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Speaker of the House  
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

House Energy and Commerce Chairman  
The Honorable Frank Pallone  
2107 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

House Ways and Means Chairman  
The Honorable Richard Neal  
2309 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Chairman Pallone, and Chairman Neal:

The skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs is one of the top concerns of the American people. In a recent poll by Harvard University and Politico, 80 percent of Americans said taking action to lower prescription drug prices is “extremely important”—the top-ranking priority for the new Congress. Americans want and expect reforms that lower drug prices for all Americans.

Despite President Trump’s rhetoric and false campaign promises, drug prices continue to soar, including for such essential drugs as insulin and treatments for opioid use disorder. According to a recent Kaiser Family Foundation poll, 24 percent of Americans say they or a family member has not filled a prescription, cut pills in half, or skipped doses because of cost. Any comprehensive legislation must address their dire need.

We believe there may be opportunities to enact into law incremental legislation, such as legislation that makes it easier for generic drugs to come to market. Congress can and should pursue such legislation.

At the same time, the House of Representatives should develop and pass comprehensive legislation that sets a bold agenda for the future. This legislation must lower prescription drug prices for seniors, middle-class families, and lower-income families, regardless of whether they are covered by Medicare, private insurance, or Medicaid. Private insurance, which covers 56 percent of the population, accounts for 42 percent of drug spending and drug costs are one of the main drivers of premium hikes. Although Medicare negotiation is a much-needed reform, it is not the only solution needed to reach most Americans. We need reforms that lower stratospheric launch prices for new drugs and prevent price gouging on existing drugs for all payers.

We appreciate your steadfast efforts to lower prescription drug prices for the American people and stand ready to assist you in any way we can.

Sincerely,

Center for American Progress

MoveOn

AFL-CIO

AFSCME

Indivisible

Families USA

Social Security Works

Public Citizen

Knowledge Ecology International

Consumer Action

Doctors for America

Coalition to Protect Patient Choice

Health Care Voter

Just Care USA

Prescription Justice

End AIDS Now