

February 27th, 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,

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Just Care USA
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End AIDS Now