

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representative Trone

**Lower Prescription Drug Costs**

1. Strike section 408 of the Chairman's mark and insert the following:

**SEC. 408. POLICY STATEMENT ON LOWERING PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS.**

(a) FINDINGS. — The House finds the following:

- (1) On August 16, 2022, Congressional Democrats worked with President Biden to enact the Inflation Reduction Act, which was historic legislation to lower health care costs for millions of Americans.
- (2) This historic law extended Marketplace affordability, capped the cost of insulin at \$35 per month for people with Medicare, improved access to affordable prescription drugs for millions of Americans, and for the first time in history, allowed Medicare to directly negotiate the prices of covered prescription drugs, saving money for both people with Medicare and American taxpayers.
- (3) This historic law significantly lowered prescription drug costs for American families:
  - a. The law's \$35 monthly insulin cap, which went into effect starting on January 1, 2023, would have saved \$761 million in out-of-pocket costs for about 1.5 million Medicare beneficiaries in 2020 if this cap had been in effect.
  - b. The law's provision to expand access to vaccines without cost-sharing in Medicare, which also went into effect on January 1, 2023, would have saved \$234 million in out-of-pocket costs for 3.4 million people receiving vaccines under Medicare Part D in 2021 if the law had been in effect.
  - c. Starting in 2025, the provisions that redesign Medicare Part D, including a \$2,000 annual out-of-pocket cap, are estimated to reduce enrollees' out-of-pocket costs by about \$7.4 billion annually among more than 18.7 million enrollees in 2025, which is annual savings of nearly \$400 per person.
- (4) As the Biden Administration continues to implement this historic law, it announced the first 10 drugs selected for Medicare price negotiation on August 29, 2023. On February 1, 2024, the Biden Administration sent its initial offers to the drug companies participating in the historic first round of

Medicare drug price negotiations. This is the latest major milestone in implementing this historic law, which will lead to lower drug prices and put an end to exorbitant price gouging by pharmaceutical companies.

- (5) For far too long, Americans have paid more for prescriptions drugs than any major economy. But now, thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act, millions of Americans have improved access to affordable prescription drugs and Medicare can directly negotiate prescription drug prices to get a better deal for seniors.
- (6) Congress should support the implementation of this historic law and continue to lower the cost of prescription drugs for American families.

(b) POLICY ON LOWERING PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS. — It is the policy of this resolution that Congress support the implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act to lower the cost of prescription drugs for American families. Congress rejects efforts to weaken the implementation of this historic law, including weakening Medicare drug price negotiations to end exorbitant price gouging by pharmaceutical companies.

- 2. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

The resolution affirms that for far too long, Americans have paid more for prescriptions drugs than any major economy. But now, thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act, millions of Americans have improved access to affordable prescription drugs and Medicare can directly negotiate prescription drug prices to get a better deal for seniors. The resolution takes the position that Congress supports the implementation of this historic law to lower the cost of prescription drugs for American families.