



September 13, 2023

Lisa McClain
Chair, Health Care and Financial Services Subcommittee
Committee on Oversight and Accountability
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman McClain,

On behalf of the Schizophrenia and Psychosis Action Alliance (S&PAA), I write to express concerns about the Inflation Reduction Act's impact on medication innovation for individuals impacted by mental illness.

Schizophrenia is a spectrum of serious neuro-psychiatric brain diseases in which people interpret reality abnormally. Schizophrenia may result in some combination of hallucinations, delusions, and extremely disordered thinking and behavior that impairs daily life.

People with schizophrenia typically require lifelong treatment. Early treatment may help improve long-term prognosis and get symptoms under control before serious complications develop. Lack of treatment leads to severe negative health outcomes, including a life expectancy shortened by an average of 28.5 years.

Treatment for schizophrenia relies on currently available medicines and psychotherapy. Current medications doctors prescribe most often for schizophrenia are called antipsychotics, which ease symptoms such as delusions and hallucinations. These drugs work on chemicals in the brain such as dopamine and serotonin. Importantly, drugs that uniquely cross the blood-brain barrier are small molecule drugs, which the IRA penalize by applying price controls after 9 years on the market, versus 13 years for large molecule products. This disparity will negatively impact patients with mental health conditions as more R&D investments will flow to large molecule biologics that are not effective in treating brain disorders.

Fixing the IRA to put small-molecule and biologic drugs on the same, 13-year timeline would help prevent the law's unintended consequences and ensure continued research into new treatments and cures for all patients with brain disorders, including those who suffer from schizophrenia and psychosis.

As your Committee explores appropriate changes to the Inflation Reduction Act and its impact on patients, we urge you to address this serious problem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gordon Lavigne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a distinct loop at the end.

Gordon Lavigne
Chief Executive Officer