

Thank you, Chairwoman Eshoo and Ranking Member Burgess, for the opportunity to speak today.

While I do not serve on this committee, I am proud to be a voice for Iowa's working families and am committed to making sure that they have a seat at the table on the issues affecting their lives.

And one of the most significant burdens Iowa families face is the skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs.

It's something that I'm hearing from folks at townhalls and Conversations with Your Congresswoman events across my district.

In the first half of this year alone, we've seen over 3,400 drugs boost their prices.

The average price hike? Ten percent-- five times the rate of inflation.

The cost of insulin, for instance, has risen 500 percent in recent years. It's left a lot of Iowans with diabetes – who have been managing their condition for years wondering, what changed? Seniors on fixed incomes are especially burdened by these rising costs.

No one should have to choose between retiring in dignity-- or keeping their home-- and affording the medicine that allows them to live a full life.

Yet, three in ten Americans report not taking their medicines as prescribed because of cost.

We live in the most innovative country in the world. There is no reason we cannot come together and find the best policy solutions to reduce costs, putting money back in the pockets of Iowa families and getting Iowans the care they need.

I have proudly supported bills like the CREATES Act and the Protecting Consumer Access to Generic Drugs Act. I appreciate this Committee's work to bring legislation to the House floor that would require more transparency from drug manufacturers and will make it faster and easier for more affordable generics to come to market.

I encourage this Committee to continue its important work to hold drug companies accountable and bring down costs for patients through common-sense, bipartisan legislation.

I'll continue to work with anyone who's serious about helping Iowans get better, more affordable health care. While I do not serve as a member of this Committee, I am ready to work with you and support your efforts to tackle the sky-rocketing costs of prescription drugs.

I am grateful to Chairwoman Eshoo and Ranking Member Burgess for the opportunity to speak about an issue that is important to me and to so many other Iowans.