



May 4, 2021

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman
Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member
Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
Chair, Subcommittee on Health
Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Health
Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers, Chairwoman Eshoo, and Ranking Member Guthrie:

On behalf of Families USA, a leading nonpartisan, national voice for health care consumers, I write to offer our enthusiastic support for H.R. 3, *the Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act* and to thank the Subcommittee on Health for holding this hearing on legislation to lower the cost of prescription drugs. For far too long, rising drug prices have forced consumers to make impossible choices between their basic needs and life-saving health care. Ninety-five percent of voters, across the political spectrum, overwhelmingly support giving Medicare the power to negotiate for lower prices.¹ In December of 2019, H.R. 3 became the most significant legislation aimed at reigning-in out-of-control drug prices ever to pass the House of Representatives. Now is the time to build on the unprecedented progress made in the 116th Congress to finally realize the will of the American people by reducing these cost burdens and holding drug corporations accountable.

H.R. 3 is landmark legislation that empowers Medicare to negotiate with drug companies for lower prices on the pharmaceuticals that are bankrupting America's families. It also limits the ability of drug companies to dramatically raise prices on existing drugs year-over-year, and protects seniors from high out-of-pocket costs in Part D by establishing a \$2,000 out-of-pocket cap. Without question, this bill represents one of the most significant steps Congress can take to improve health and health care for millions upon millions of people in America, at a time when they need relief more than ever.

We applaud your leadership in this monumental effort, alongside that of Chairman Scott and Chairman Neal, and we look forward to working with you to strengthen this bill as it moves through the legislative process, as well as to collaborate on additional opportunities to address prescription drug costs. Areas for additional work include protecting more consumers from price spikes by expanding inflationary rebates beyond Medicare and increasing the number of drugs for which the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is required to negotiate. It is also critical that Congress address patent and exclusivity abuses by drug companies that are the root causes of high and rising drug costs as well as a lack of meaningful innovation by much of the pharmaceutical industry.

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We are deeply grateful to you and your colleagues for crafting a bill that will provide critical relief for millions of families. We look forward to its swift passage in the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,



Frederick Isasi, JD, MPH
Executive Director

cc: Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, Chair, House Education and Labor Committee
Richard E. Neal, Chair, House Ways and Means Committee

ⁱ Sandra Wilkniss, Kimberly Alleyne, and Natasha Kumar, "Affordable Medicines are Still Elusive: America's Families Want Fair Prices." December 11, 2020.
<https://www.familiesusa.org/resources/affordable-medicines-are-still-elusive-americas-families-want-fair-prices/>