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PRESS RELEASE    Advocacy

# Endocrine Society calls on Congress to pass legislation to lower the price of insulin

Washington, DC    April 22, 2021

Society applauds reintroduction of H.R. 3, the Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act, to improve access to affordable medications

The Endocrine Society is calling on Congress to pass legislation to lower the price of insulin and applauds the efforts of Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Frank Pallone Jr. (D-NJ), Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard E. Neal (D-MA), and Education and Labor Committee Chairman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (D-VA) to reintroduce H.R. 3, the Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act, to improve access to affordable medications. In January, the Society published a position statement on insulin access and affordability, which recommends policymakers include government negotiation as part of an overall strategy to reduce insulin prices.

The Society believes that Congress must act immediately to address the urgent issue of insulin affordability. More than 34 million Americans have diabetes, and another 88 million are at risk for developing the disease. For many people with diabetes, insulin is a life-saving medication. However, the price of insulin has nearly tripled in the past 15 years, making it difficult for people with diabetes to manage their chronic disease. Low-income individuals, those on high deductible health plans, beneficiaries using Medicare Part B to cover insulin delivered via pump, Medicare beneficiaries in the Part D donut hole, and those who turn 26 and must transition from their parents' insurance increasingly face difficult decisions about how to afford the insulin they require and avoid unnecessary complications and hospitalizations.

H.R. 3 would lower the cost of prescription drugs by:

- Empowering the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate better prescription drug prices in Medicare and make those negotiated prices available to commercial health insurance plans
- Capping Medicare beneficiaries' out-of-pocket spending on prescription drugs at \$2,000 per year;
- Reversing years of price increases by requiring drug manufacturers to pay a rebate back to the federal government if they increase prices faster than inflation; and
- Reinvesting federal cost-savings in the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration to support research and development of new breakthrough treatments and cures, as well as making investments in combatting the opioid crisis.

The lack of transparency in the drug supply chain has made it challenging to identify and address the causes of these soaring prices. The Society believes government negotiation of drug prices is one way

to improve affordability and looks forward to working with Congress and the Administration to address this critically important issue, which impacts millions of Americans.

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## **Endocrine Society calls on Congress to pass legislation to lower the price of insulin**

April 22, 2021

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PRESS RELEASE

## **Endocrine Society condemns efforts to block access to medical care for transgender youth**

April 14, 2021

The Endocrine Society opposes legislative efforts that do not conform to medical evidence and clinical practice to prevent transgender and gender diverse adolescents from accessing gender-affirming medical care.

PRESS RELEASE

## **Exposure to harmful chemicals in plastic may contribute to postpartum depression**

April 01, 2021

Endocrine-disrupting chemicals may influence hormonal shifts during pregnancy as well as contribute to postpartum depression, according to a small study published in the Endocrine Society's Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism.

PRESS RELEASE Awards

## **Endocrine Society selects Hydeline Dominguez as winner of the C. Wayne Bardin International Travel Award**

March 25, 2021

Endocrine Society selected Hydelene Dominguez, M.D., as the first winner of the C. Wayne Bardin International Travel Award. The award was established to pay tribute to Bardin, who passed away in 2019 and made remarkable research contributions to both reproductive physiology and contraception throughout his long career.

PRESS RELEASE Meetings & Events

## **Drug used during pregnancy may increase cancer risk in mother's adult children**

March 22, 2021

Exposure in the womb to a drug used to prevent miscarriage appears to raise the offspring's cancer risk decades later, especially for colorectal and prostate cancers, researchers have found. They will present the results of their new study Tuesday at ENDO 2021, the Endocrine Society's annual meeting.

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