

Written Statement

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Submitted to the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

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**"Unsustainable Drug Prices (Part III): Testimony from
AbbVie CEO Richard Gonzalez"**

Health Advocacy Summit and its program the Crohn's and Colitis Young Adults Network respectfully submits the following statement for the record regarding the rising prescription drug prices.

Dear Chairwoman Maloney,

Health Advocacy Summit (HAS) and its program the Crohn's and Colitis Young Adults Network (CCYAN) represents young adults with chronic medical disabilities primarily across the United States. HAS is one of the first and only organizations supporting this unique demographic during the transition into adulthood with a lifelong condition. We appreciate the opportunity to submit a statement for the record and speak to the financial implications of the rising costs of AbbVie's Humira as young patient advocates.

The HAS was created and is still led entirely by young adults with chronic medical disabilities. Our work has touched regions across the U.S. from South Texas to Indiana to California. Through our program, the Crohn's and Colitis Young Adults Network, we facilitate a fellowship program to train and inform young adults with Inflammatory Bowel Diseases (IBD). As you may know, many people with IBD are prescribed Humira. Through our discussions, it is clear that financial barriers due to high prescription costs among other barriers impede on the wellbeing of our young adult patient demographic. A growing concern is the rising cost of prescription drugs and the over-patenting of crucial and life-saving medications. To avoid competition and to disallow the production of biosimilars is a disservice to our demographic. It allows us fewer choices and causes us more financial distress during a time where many of us are becoming financially independent for the first time.

We represent the next generation of patients that will grapple between having to pay high prices for prescription medications instead of pursuing meaningful opportunities such as higher education. Executives must answer to the vital decisions that we will have to make due to financial constraints. The HAS hopes that pharmacologic treatments will be affordable and accessible to all who need them. Notably, we are concerned about anticompetitive behavior and thus fewer options to pay lower prices for biosimilars. AbbVie has been a growing concern given that many young adults with IBD have been or are on Humira. While AbbVie provides scholarships and engages in other charitable donations for various autoimmune conditions, we can't help but wonder if this is a tactic to avoid the concerns of many patients which are to afford medications.

Many young adults with IBD have been on Humira. This is not a new drug, but these are egregious tactics that will set a precedent for other prescription drugs on the market. We want to make it very clear that the production of new drugs is absolutely critical for our lives and future wellbeing but in doing so our lives are worth more than we can often pay. Pharmacologic treatments should be made accessible and affordable to all of our growing demographic of young people with chronic medical disabilities - not just those of a particular demographic. As an organization that is led entirely by young adults with chronic medical disabilities, the urgency must be emphasized to hold anticompetitive practices accountable before they become even more devastating.



Thank you for your time and to all parties for contributing arguments. We applaud the work of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform in investigating AbbVie's behaviors that have led to substantial increases in the price of Humira. We hope that our perspectives will be weighed heavily as the next generation of patient advocates.

Sincerely,

Sneha Dave, Executive Director
Health Advocacy Summit