

PATIENTS FOR AFFORDABLE DRUGS NOW™

July 9, 2018

Chairman Walden, Vice Chairman Barton, Ranking Member Pallone, and Committee members,

My name is David Mitchell, and I am the founder of Patients For Affordable Drugs. I had the honor of testifying in front of the Subcommittee on Health in December on the effect that high drug prices have on patients. Today, I write to you in regard to the REVAMP Act (H.R.6294) as introduced by Representatives Shimkus and Cardenas.

While REVAMP aims to address the important issue of antibiotic development, we are deeply concerned that the incentive method used in this bill -- offering transferable exclusivity vouchers -- could extend monopolies and keep drug prices high for patients. As someone who continues to need new and innovative drugs to stay alive, I understand the importance of incentivizing drug development. But offering transferable exclusivity vouchers and extending monopolies is the precise opposite of what we should do to incentivize new antibiotic and drug development in general. Monopolies are already being abused by drug companies to raise prices and pad profit margins. Allowing companies to transfer such vouchers gives them the freedom to keep unrelated drug prices high and hurt affordability for Americans.

If there is evidence that pharmaceutical companies need incentives to bring antibiotics to market, we encourage the committee to employ other incentives that do not allow companies to strengthen or extend their drug monopolies. For example, granting companies a transferable priority review voucher instead of an exclusivity voucher could speed new drugs to market and would not contribute to a lack of competition and high drug prices.

We urge you to not include the REVAMP Act as currently written in the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA). It is a gift to drug companies disguised as a way to bring more antibiotics to market. Innovation is important, but drugs don't work if people can't afford them.

Sincerely,



David Mitchell
Founder & President
Patients For Affordable Drugs