



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Coalition Remains Opposed to H.R. 3 Due to Extreme Changes to Medicare Part B

Today Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal (D-MA), and Education and Labor Committee Chairman Robert "Bobby" Scott (D-VA) introduced the Democratic leadership's drug pricing bill for the 117th Congress, H.R. 3, the Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act, modeled after similarly dangerous legislation from the 116th Congress.

We have grave concerns with the sweeping impacts H.R. 3 would have on Medicare Part B and, most importantly, on access to life-changing medicines for patients served by this important program. This legislation would provide broad new authority to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), allowing them to negotiate on up to 250 brand-name drugs and to set prices, which would be capped at 1.2-times the prices charged in certain international markets. It should be noted that most of these markets operate under a fundamentally different philosophy than we do in the U.S. and, alarmingly, often fail to afford citizens the same access and value determinations that we currently see. Furthermore, not only would these price controls be required under Medicare, but also in the commercial market.

As we have [outlined in the past](#), we have serious apprehension about introducing arbitrary international pricing models and the impact these models will have on patient access, providers' ability to deliver patient-centric care, and the future introduction of innovative medicines. These concerns are highlighted in our December 10, 2018 [letter](#) to House and Senate leadership, signed by 339 patient and provider organizations, and again in our December 22, 2020 [letter](#), signed by 355 patient and provider organizations. These untested pricing proposals will have devastating consequences within an already vulnerable patient population, as they will undermine seniors' access to new and existing treatment regimens.

The Part B Access for Seniors and Physicians (ASP) Coalition understands the cost constraints across our healthcare system. We are committed to maintaining a strong Medicare Part B program that defends patients and providers from the threats like those still contained in the most recent version of H.R. 3.

For more information, please visit www.PartBAccess.org