

February 7, 2022

Dear Senator,

On behalf of more than 90 organizations representing patients, consumers, seniors, unions, small businesses, large employers, physicians, and disease advocacy groups, we urge the Senate to immediately advance a reconciliation package that includes the reforms to lower prescription drug prices agreed to in the Build Back Better Act.

Rising prices are a [top concern](#) for American families and employers. Even as we approach the third year of a pandemic, drug companies began the new year by hiking the prices of almost 750 life-saving and life-sustaining medications, undeterred by the financial hardship and health challenges facing Americans today.

If Congress lets the pharmaceutical industry overcharge Americans and dictate astronomical prices for brand-name drugs in our country, then patients, workers, employers, and taxpayers will continue to shoulder the burden of prices that are [nearly three times](#) what people in other comparable nations pay. Congress has repeatedly promised to address this problem, and the American people need the help now more than ever.

Right now, you have a time-limited opportunity to deliver relief to millions of Americans by permitting Medicare to negotiate for lower drug prices, capping copays and out-of-pocket costs for beneficiaries, and limiting annual price increases on life-saving and life-sustaining drugs to the rate of inflation for all Americans. More than [80 percent](#) of Americans support these reforms — Democrats, Republicans, and independents alike. They are the [most popular](#) element of the Build Back Better Act. In the face of slim margins in the Senate, the current path to pass all of these critical reforms is through reconciliation. These reforms already have the support of all 50 Senate Democrats. Congress can pass these drug pricing reforms in short order and move the nation in a new direction, providing savings to patients, taxpayers, workers, employers, and the federal and state governments.

Enacting the drug price reforms agreed upon in the Build Back Better package will mark a truly historic shift in U.S. drug pricing policy. Not only will it break the pharmaceutical industry's unilateral power to dictate prices to the American people, it will save lives, improve health, fight inflation, and put more money back into the pockets of American seniors, workers, and businesses.

These reforms are long overdue. We urge swift action. Now is the time to get the job done.

Signed:

AARP

AFL-CIO

AFSCME

Alliance for Retired Americans

American Academy of Neurology

American Federation of Teachers

American Medical Student Association

Americans for Democratic Action, Southern California

Be a Hero

Blue Shield of California

Centennial State Prosperity

Center for American Progress

Center for Medicare Advocacy

Center for Popular Democracy

Citizen Action of Wisconsin

Colorado Consumer Health Initiative

Communications Workers of America (CWA)

Community Catalyst

Consumer Action

COVID Survivors for Change

Doctors for America

Economic Alliance for Michigan

Families USA

Florida #insulin4all

Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value

Generation Patient

Greater Philadelphia Business Coalition on Health

Health Access California

Health Action New Mexico

Health Care For All Massachusetts

Health Care Voices

Health Care Voter

Honest Arizona

Houston Business Coalition on Health

Indivisible

Initiative for Medicines, Access, & Knowledge (I-MAK)

Insulin For Life

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

International Brotherhood of Teamsters
International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW)
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action
Justice in Aging
Kentuckiana Health Collaborative
Knowledge Ecology International (KEI)
KS Business Group on Health
Lehigh Valley Business Coalition on Healthcare (LVBCH)
Little Lobbyists
Lower Drug Prices Now (LDPN)
Main Street Alliance
Maine Consumers for Affordable Health Care
Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative
Massachusetts #insulin4all Chapter
Medicare Rights Center
Metro New York Health Care for All
Midwest Business Group on Health
MomsRising
Montana Association of Health Care Purchasers
National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare
National Education Association
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Nevada Business Group on Health
New Jersey Citizen Action
North Carolina Business Group on Health
Our Revolution
Patients For Affordable Drugs Now
Pennsylvania Health Access Network
People's Action
Pittsburgh Business Group On Health
PrEP4All
Prescription Justice
Progressive Democrats of America
Protect Our Care
Public Citizen
Purchaser Business Group on Health
Rhode Island Business Group on Health
Salud y Fármacos

SEIU
Silicon Valley Employers Forum
Social Security Works
T1International
TakeAction Minnesota
Tennessee Health Care Campaign
The Alliance (WI, IL and IA)
UnidosUS Action Fund
UNITE HERE
United Mine Workers of America
United States of Care
Washington Health Alliance
WellOK - The Northeastern Oklahoma Business Coalition
West Health Institute

Cc:

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives