



October 21, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Senate Majority Leader  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Schumer,

We stand at an historic moment. Within days, Congress is expected to release a framework to deliver on a promise to let Medicare negotiate lower prescription drug prices for the American people. We can finally undo a policy that has left patients and consumers at the mercy of drug corporations that dictate prices of brand-name drugs, forcing Americans to pay [three times](#) what other wealthy nations pay for the same medicines. We urge Congress and the President to seize this moment and finally get the job done.

A recent independent survey showed more than [8 out of 10](#) Americans regardless of party support this reform. Even after hearing the industry's [false](#) claims that negotiation will bring harm to patients and consumers, the level of support for Medicare negotiation does not slip. It is not an afterthought for the American people; *it is the single [most popular](#) element of the Build Back Better plan.*

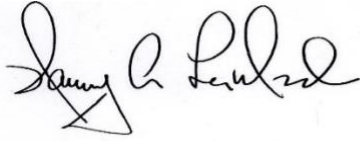
To fulfill the promise of lower drug prices, legislation must contain key elements including effective negotiation on drugs that burden patients and taxpayers with the highest prices, drugs covered under both Medicare Parts D and B, and drugs that do not face meaningful competition. To stop the industry practice of price gouging, drug companies should be penalized for annual price increases that exceed the rate of inflation. For the first time in Medicare, there must be a hard cap on annual out-of-pocket drug costs for beneficiaries. In the end, the legislation must lower prices and out-of-pocket costs while keeping premiums affordable. It must produce significant savings for consumers and taxpayers. These key elements must be included in the consensus framework.

Done right, negotiation will stimulate innovation that patients and older Americans want and need. As long as drug companies retain their current power to raise prices at will to drive profits and trigger executive bonuses, they have far less incentive to take risk and invest in research and development to find innovative new drugs that could justifiably command higher prices and save lives. By making clear that Medicare will pay the best prices for the best drugs, negotiation will encourage innovation as companies pursue better drugs.

This is not a moment to equivocate, delay, or dilute the foundational elements of effective reform. This is the moment to enact legislation that will help millions of Americans who are forgoing drugs they have been prescribed but cannot afford, rationing, and choosing between paying rent or paying for prescriptions they need.

We are grateful for your leadership and determination to see this through. We will continue our work to be sure the voices of patients and older Americans are heard, and that the legislation that emerges provides the relief they have been promised.

Sincerely,



Nancy A. LeMond  
Executive Vice President and  
Chief Advocacy & Engagement Officer



David Mitchell  
Founder  
Patients For Affordable Drugs Now

Cc: The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States