



PATIENTS FOR AFFORDABLE DRUGS NOW™

November 15, 2021

Dear Representative:

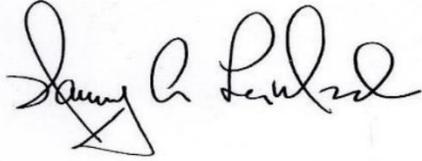
This week will be a pivotal moment as the House of Representatives stands poised to deliver on the promise of lowering drug prices for the American people. For decades, patients, consumers and seniors across this country have been crushed by high and rising prescription drug prices. The announcement of a \$22 per month increase in Medicare Part B premiums is the latest example of American seniors and taxpayers paying the price for the outrageous pricing behavior of the drug industry. The agreement reached on drug prices will finally start to reverse policies that have left patients and consumers at the mercy of drug corporations and forced Americans to pay three times what other wealthy nations pay for the same medicines. We urge you to support this agreement.

This prescription drug framework represents an historic breakthrough in support of the health and financial well-being of families across this country. For Medicare beneficiaries, who take on average between four and five prescription medications each month and have a median income of just under \$30,000 a year, it will provide much-needed and long overdue relief. The agreement will help lower drug prices, premiums, and out-of-pocket costs while also strengthening the Medicare program, which has had to absorb the effects of ever-higher drug prices. Importantly, the agreement contains four key elements, including a strong negotiation authority in Medicare Parts B and D; stopping price gouging by penalizing drug companies when their annual price increases exceed the rate of inflation; and for the first time in Medicare, establishing a hard \$2,000 cap on annual out-of-pocket drug costs for Part D enrollees. For millions with diabetes, the bill will also cap out-of-pocket costs for insulin. **This package represents a hard-fought compromise, and we call on all members of Congress to strongly reject any efforts to weaken the deal.**

Over the last two weeks alone, our organizations have seen hundreds of thousands of people call and email to tell Congress it is time to stand with us and not the drug companies. Prescription drug affordability affects millions of Americans across the country. It is deeply personal as both a health and financial issue. That's why it garners overwhelming support across party lines. A recent independent survey showed that 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.*

We urge you to vote yes to lower prescription drug prices this week. No one should have to choose between paying rent or paying for prescriptions they need. Americans literally cannot afford to wait any longer.

Sincerely,



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



David Mitchell
President and Founder
Patients for Affordable Drugs Now