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 (LVBC)
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