

January 22, 2019

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chair
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
Chair
Subcommittee on Health
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lloyd Doggett
Chair
Subcommittee on Health
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Pallone, Neal, Eshoo, and Doggett:

Congratulations on your elections as leaders of the Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means Committees. During the last election cycle, consumers, patients, and families made their voices heard by electing policymakers who will fight for an agenda that will lower health care costs, and improve and save lives. Millions of Americans now look to you to deliver on the promises of the candidates across the nation who ran on a commitment to lower the prices of prescription drugs.

The undersigned organizations are eager to support your work to provide relief to patients and consumers struggling under the burden of high drug costs, and believe the way forward is clear. There have been plenty of hearings on the issue in both houses of Congress, and many bills have been introduced to reform the system. It is time to act on those concrete proposals.

As you pursue broader prescription drug reforms, we urge immediate action on legislation to:

- **Allow Medicare to negotiate prices directly with drug companies.** This policy enjoys the support of 80 percent of Americans. It is time to advance legislation to get this done.
- **Stop monopoly abuses in our system.** Although the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Ways and Means Committee are not wholly the committees of jurisdiction for these reforms, we believe it is important for the committees to show support for legislation to stop tactics that abuse the Hatch-Waxman framework and delay generics from coming to market. The CREATES Act should be acted on immediately, followed quickly by legislation to stop pay-for-delay, curb the use of patent thickets, and end the misuse of citizen petitions. Each of these steps has bipartisan support.
- **Make drug manufacturers and pharmacy benefit managers transparent.** Drug manufacturers reap the benefits of research and development funded by taxpayers and drug middlemen manage huge drug insurance programs under Medicare. Yet, both manufacturers and PBMs do their business in secret. It is time to let the light shine on their practices to ensure they are operating in the best interests of beneficiaries and the federal government.

We know what the problems are. While more oversight and investigation by the committees is welcome, the time has come for action to stop drug companies' profiteering. We urge you not to miss the opportunity to act quickly to advance legislation that the American people overwhelmingly support and you and your colleagues were elected to deliver.

We stand ready to work with you to get the job done.

Sincerely,

Families USA
AFL-CIO
AIDS Healthcare Foundation
American Family Voices
American Medical Student Association (AMSA)
Chronic Illness Advocacy & Awareness Group, Inc.
Coalition to Protect Patient Choice
Community Catalyst
Consumer Action
Doctors for America
Medicare Rights Center
National Partnership for Women & Families
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Patients For Affordable Drugs Now
People's Action Institute
Prescription Justice
Public Citizen
U.S. PIRG
Universal Health Care Action Network

cc: The Honorable Kevin Brady, Ranking Member,
Committee on Ways and Means
The Honorable Greg Walden, Ranking Member,
Committee on Energy and Commerce
The Honorable Devin Nunes, Ranking Member,
Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health
The Honorable Michael Burgess, Ranking Member,
Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health