

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 14, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C., 20510

The Honorable John Yarmuth
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on the Budget
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on the Budget
Washington, D.C., 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Chairman Yarmuth, and Chairman Sanders:

We write today to urge that the next reconciliation bill brought before Congress include giving Medicare the authority and the tools to effectively negotiate prescription drug prices as President Biden called for in his address to Congress. Empowering Medicare in this way and making these negotiated prices available to the private sector will bring down the cost of prescription drugs not just for seniors, but for also individuals and families across America. This is all the more urgent given that drug prices were just raised this month as part of the tradition of pharmaceutical corporations hiking prices twice per year in both January and July. In January 2021, drug companies hiked the price of 783 drugs; 100% of these hikes were above the rate of inflation. The largest single drug price hike so far this month was a price increase of 9.5%.

Each day, American families are forced into an impossible choice: to not take their medicine, to ration it, or to put food on the table and keep a roof over their head. As you know, pharmaceutical corporations are charging Americans prices that are three, four, and even ten times higher than what they charge for the same drugs in other countries – even though they admit they still make a profit overseas. Finally giving Medicare the power to negotiate drug prices to ensure that Americans are no longer price-gouged for life-saving medications is critical. Further, we must ensure that we extend these savings beyond Medicare to those with private insurance as well.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices would save American taxpayers \$456 billion in just the first ten years alone. We can and must use these savings to reinvest in our health care system. With public support of Medicare price negotiation of prescription drugs at nearly 90%, it is time to take action. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Susan Wild
Member of Congress



Haley Stevens
Member of Congress



Katie Porter
Member of Congress



Susie Lee
Member of Congress



Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress



Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress



Cynthia Axne
Member of Congress



Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



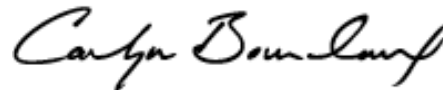
Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



Carolyn Bourdeaux
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colin Allred". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Colin" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Allred".

Colin Allred
Member of Congress