



## THE PUBLIC DEMANDS: AFFORDABLE MEDS NOW!

No one should have to choose between taking medicine to save their lives and putting food on the table for their family.

Americans across the political spectrum support strong action to reduce medicine prices and end the monopoly abuses of prescription drug corporations. It is morally wrong that people are denied access to the medicines they need because they cannot afford them, as is the case for millions of Americans today.

Taxpayer dollars drives medical innovation, and taxpayers deserve more in return for our support. Instead, Americans continue to pay the highest prices in the world for pharmaceuticals, or as is often the case, go without treatment because the medicine we need is unaffordable.

Congress can end treatment rationing and help everyone access the medicines they need to live healthy and productive lives by passing the *Improving Access to Affordable Prescription Drugs Act* (the Affordable Meds Act). The Affordable Care Act guaranteed that insurance plans provide essential health benefits and expanded Medicaid for millions of Americans that are living on the brink, but additional action is needed to lower the prices of prescription drugs – one of the greatest drivers of healthcare costs. By passing this sensible reform, we will fight pharmaceutical corporations' greed and power while creating real savings for taxpayers and patients.

- **Reduce lengthy monopolies and allow competition.** Prescription drug corporations take advantage of government-granted monopolies to reap among the highest profit margins of any industry by charging as much as we will pay to care for our loved ones – and sometimes more. The Affordable Meds Act curbs excess profits and monopolies so we can protect consumers from price gouging..
- **Bar overnight price spikes.** We should all live free from concern that prescription drug corporations will suddenly, significantly increase the price of our medicine and put our health at risk. The Affordable Meds Act limits prescription drug corporations' ability to arbitrarily raise prices on existing medicines.
- **No backroom corporate deals to keep prices high.** Today, prescription drug corporations pay each other millions of dollars to delay price-cutting competition and maintain monopoly prices. The Affordable Meds Act changes the rules to punish drug corporations that make backroom deals to keep prices high and hurt American taxpayers.
- **Crack down on pharma fraud.** Many prescription drug corporations routinely break our laws, overcharge Medicaid, bribe healthcare providers, manipulate safety data and illegally market their drugs. The Affordable Meds Act ensures that when corporations steal from the people, we don't reward them with monopolies.
- **Negotiate prices for our public coverage.** Prescription drug corporations have spent millions on lobbying to prevent Medicare from negotiating prices to get a better deal for America's seniors. The Affordable

Meds Act provides a simple fix, changing rules to let Medicare negotiate and save taxpayers billions of dollars each year.

- **Make the industry more transparent.** Prescription drug corporations keep too much of their information locked away from public scrutiny, making it very difficult to assess if the prices charged for medicines are fair. The Affordable Meds Act would require transparency from drug corporations that will allow Congress and the public to assess when drug corporations are charging unfair prices.
- **Empower patients by lowering out-of-pocket costs.** For people who purchase insurance from exchanges or get it through their employer, the Affordable Meds Act sets a maximum out-of-pocket contribution for prescription drugs, so families trying to make ends meet aren't burdened by high prices for medicine.
- **Incentivize life-saving innovation.** The Affordable Meds Act creates a new prize fund and clinical trial program to develop new antibiotics that can treat some of the most deadly diseases in society, with safeguards in place to make sure these new discoveries are affordable.

Under current law, drug corporations wield unchecked monopoly power to price lifesaving medicines out of reach, putting greed and profits before the health of our loved ones. If we can change the rules by passing the sensible reforms in the Affordable Meds Act, we will be closer to a world where medicines are affordable for everyone who needs them.

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