

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 21, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We were encouraged when we met with you in the Oval Office on March 8 that you said you shared our strong commitment to taking aggressive action to lower prescription drug prices, which are crushing hard working Americans.

You seemed moved by the story we shared of a constituent who had been paying just \$500 annually for a corticosteroid to treat her son's muscular dystrophy and received the shocking news that the price had skyrocketed overnight to \$89,000 per year.

You appeared to embrace our draft legislation, the *Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Act*, which would implement your oft-repeated campaign pledge to empower the federal government to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies to lower Medicare drug prices—a proposal supported by 92% of Americans.

Finally, we appreciated your direction to Secretary Price to review our legislation and provide us with feedback in short order.

Since our meeting more than three months ago, however, we have heard nothing more from you or Secretary Price. Instead, recent press reports indicate that you are poised to issue an executive order that would implement administrative actions culled directly from the pharmaceutical industry's wish list.

This would be a betrayal of the very people who supported you and rely on you to make good on your promises.

Before you were sworn in as President, you railed against the pharmaceutical industry's abuses, accusing them of "getting away with murder." You also warned that "Pharma has a lot of lobbies and a lot of lobbyists and a lot of power, and there's very little bidding on drugs."

Your statements and your promises gave many of us hope, but your planned executive actions suggest that you have abandoned these promises in favor of the very pharmaceutical lobby you warned of.

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Simply put, Mr. President, these measures utterly fail to make good on your promise to the American people to take aggressive action to cut the skyrocketing price of prescription drugs. Six months into your presidency, the pricing power of the pharmaceutical industry continues—unabated and unchecked.

We urgently seek your intervention with your Administration's internal working group. We ask that you direct them to embrace the aggressive reform desperately needed by Americans—which you promised in your campaign—rather than the steps they are reportedly considering at the behest of the pharmaceutical industry.

We continue to hope that you will fulfill the promises you made to the American people. Despite our great frustration with your failure to act on this issue, we remain open to working on policies that will actually bring down drug prices, including Medicare negotiation.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member



Peter Welch
Member of Congress