

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 16, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
1710 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Scalise
Minority Whip
H-307, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James E. Clyburn
Majority Whip
H-329, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader Hoyer, Whip Clyburn, and Whip Scalise,

We were elected to Congress with a mandate to address our nation's most challenging problems head on, to engage in thoughtful dialogue, and to seek real reforms for the American people. In both Democratic and Republican districts across the country, health care and the ever-increasing costs of prescription drugs continue to remain top of mind for so many of our constituents.

Per capita, Americans spend \$1,200 a year on prescription drugs - more than any other country. The price of brand-name oral prescription medications rose more than nine percent per year from 2008 to 2016. For injectable drugs, the costs rose by more than 15 percent. Insulin prices nearly doubled between 2012 and 2016. Overall spending by the government, consumers, and insurers on prescription drugs was \$333 billion in 2017, an increase of more than 41 percent over the previous decade.

Despite these alarming statistics, Congress has only taken modest progress in addressing this problem. This week, the U.S. House of Representatives had an opportunity to make meaningful, bipartisan progress in our work to lower drug costs for the American people. Unfortunately, the legislation we are voting on this week, while bipartisan, is just a small step forward in helping families across the country dealing with the increasing cost of prescription drugs.

Moreover, we are disappointed to see Affordable Care Act (ACA) provisions attached to H.R. 987, ensuring that the bill will not receive the substantial bipartisan support needed to position it for consideration in the Senate. Our constituents sent us here to enact into law legislation to bring down the cost of prescription drugs, and we cannot do that without widespread bipartisan support in the House and Senate.

Pharmaceutical manufacturers have been making record profits while American families struggle to make ends meet. That is why we are calling for bipartisan prescription drug pricing reform through regular order and an open process that provides all members with an opportunity to discuss their proposals. There are a number of bipartisan bills that have been introduced in both the House and Senate to address access to generic and biosimilar drugs and increase transparency in pricing that we believe would have a real effect on the rising cost of prescription drugs.

We stand ready to work with you on behalf of American families who for too long have endured the growing costs of prescription drugs. Now is the time to act on bipartisan proposals that can gain traction in the Senate.

Sincerely,



JARED GOLDEN
Member of Congress



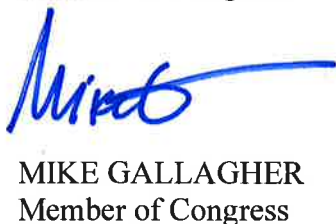
ANTHONY GONZALEZ
Member of Congress



CHRISSEY HOULAHAN
Member of Congress



JOHN KATKO
Member of Congress



MIKE GALLAGHER
Member of Congress