



September 13, 2021

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219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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The Honorable Kevin Brady
Ranking Member
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1139 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Wyden, Chairman Pallone, Chairman Neal, Ranking Member Crapo, Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers, and Ranking Member Brady,

On behalf of Research!America, a nonprofit, nonpartisan alliance advocating for faster medical and public health progress, thank you for the hard work you and your respective staff members are devoting to determining the policy changes to be considered under the reconciliation process.

In the context of provisions related to pricing for prescription medicines, before making major policy changes to this facet of healthcare, we urge you to secure sufficient data and analyses - through economic modeling and other research channels - to better assess the potential impacts of these changes on the nature and pace of medical and public health progress. Absent more data and analysis to evaluate these changes, it is not possible to determine whether the wellbeing of Americans and populations across the globe would be served or harmed by them.

From Alzheimer's to lupus to deadly childhood diseases to serious mental health conditions to global infectious threats like COVID-19, the societal significance of public and private sector-driven medical and public health progress is profound.

A major facet of this progress, the development of medicines that prevent, treat, and even cure deadly and debilitating diseases, is a pivotal societal accomplishment that will confer benefits to this and every generation to

come. Government- and industry-supported scientists in the United States, coupled with patients who have volunteered for clinical trials, have driven much of this progress. We believe that, as leaders who are being called upon to advance policy proposals affecting investment in prescription medicines, you should have the benefit of more data and analysis to inform these proposals.

Cancer takes 606,520 American lives each year and 9.5 million globally. Alzheimer's will cost our nation \$1.1 trillion annually by 2050. There are 7,000 known rare diseases, and treatments for only 5% of them. We desperately need faster progress, and realistically, that will require significant public and private sector investment in the development of new medical interventions.

Research!America does not know whether the drug pricing proposals you are contemplating would, on balance, benefit or harm patients and the public health; reduce healthcare costs or increase them; compromise our nation's ability to combat global health threats or have no effect on that imperative; or in any other way serve or do a disservice to the public good. For these reasons, we cannot take a position on any of the proposed changes.

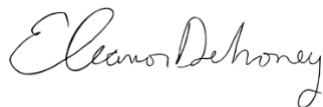
In the same vein, we believe Congress should be equipped with more information about the impact of changes affecting prescription drug investment before making changes that could contravene the very objectives these changes are meant to advance.

We therefore request that you commission a comprehensive, data-rich analysis of the impact of the array of prescription drug pricing proposals currently under consideration before moving forward with any of them. We know you are hearing from interest groups who variously laud the benefits, and decry the negative impacts, of these proposals, and that the political pressure to act is enormous. However, the stakes are high enough here to affect the wellbeing, length of life, and day-to-day security of every individual now and in the future. Pausing long enough to secure more data and analysis is amply justified.

We stand ready to support you in securing the needed information, and once again thank you and your hardworking staff members for your efforts to advance the public good.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ellie Dehoney".

Ellie Dehoney
Vice President, Policy and Advocacy
Research!America