

August 19, 2021

The Honorable Michael Bennet  
U.S. Senate  
261 Russell Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark Kelly  
U.S. Senate  
Hart Senate Office Building  
Suite 516  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto  
U.S. Senate  
313 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Raphael Warnock  
U.S. Senate  
Russell Senate Office Building  
Suite 388  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maggie Hassan  
U.S. Senate  
324 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Sen. Bennet, Sen. Cortez Masto, Sen. Hassan, Sen. Kelly, and Sen. Warnock,

Thank you for your leadership on lowering the cost of prescription drugs. As organizations representing consumers, patients, children, seniors, workers, businesses, and others, we are grateful to each of you for filing on the U.S. Senate floor a declarative amendment establishing support for comprehensive Medicare negotiation as a part of the upcoming reconciliation package.

As you know, America's families are looking to Congress to enact major health reforms that will finally alleviate the immense financial burden that prescription drug costs cruelly level on everyday people. Across our nation, a disturbingly high percentage of people face the impossible choice of foregoing or rationing medications so they can afford other basic needs. This pattern is consistent year over year, with an average of 29% of people across the country forced to make this choice in a given year.<sup>1</sup>

It is time to put an end to the outrageous price of drugs and the solution is clear: Mandating strong and comprehensive Medicare negotiation that saves taxpayer dollars and prevents pharmaceutical industry executives from recklessly increasing drug prices with impunity. In order to fully address the damage caused to the American people by out of control drug prices, we also need to extend the gains from Medicare negotiation to people who purchase their health insurance through their employer or in the non-group market.

Last week's Senate passage of the FY2022 Budget Resolution with reconciliation instructions signals remarkable promise in making significant drug pricing reforms and, critically, your amendment highlights the importance of enacting Medicare negotiation that will improve the lives of millions of Americans. Thank you for taking a bold stand on this issue.

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<sup>1</sup> Fact Sheet. "In Every State, Far Too Many People Are Skipping or Changing Medications Because They Are Too Expensive," Eliot Fishman, Families USA. [Link](#)

Our organizations stand ready to support you and your colleagues in the Senate and House of Representatives as you continue to fight for America's families by enacting a drug pricing solution that finally lowers drug prices for everyone.

Sincerely,

**National Organizations**

Families USA  
ACA Consumer Advocacy  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Medical Student Association  
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF)  
Center for American Progress  
Center for Medicare Advocacy  
Community Catalyst  
Consumer Action  
DemCast USA  
Doctors For America  
DSA Health Workers Collective  
Health Care Awareness Month  
Health Care Voices  
Health Care Voter  
Justice in Aging  
Little Lobbyists  
Lower Drug Prices Now  
MomsRising  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
Oral Health Progress and Equity Network (OPEN, Inc.)  
Patients for Affordable Drugs Now  
Prescription Justice  
Progressive Doctors  
Protect Our Care  
Public Sector HealthCare Roundtable  
Purchaser Business Group on Health  
Small Business Majority  
Social Security Works  
TI International  
The Democratic Coalition  
The International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW)  
Treatment Action Group  
UNITE HERE

Voters of Tomorrow

**Arizona**

AFSCME AZ Retirees  
AFSCME Local 2384  
AFSCME Local 2960  
AFSCME Local 3284  
AFSCME Local 449  
Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers  
Arizona Oral Health Coalition  
Arizona Public Interest Research Group (Arizona PIRG)  
Asian Pacific Community in Action  
Children's Action Alliance  
Honest Arizona  
Local 3282 Peoria AZ  
Progress Arizona  
West Valley Neighborhoods Coalition

**Colorado**

Colorado Academy of Family Physicians  
Colorado Center on Law and Policy  
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative  
Mental Health Colorado  
ProgressNow Colorado  
The Consortium

**Georgia**

AFSCME Local 1644  
Allergy & Asthma Network  
Georgia Interfaith Public Policy Center  
Georgians for a Healthy Future  
Jewish Community Relations Council  
Jewish Democratic Women's Salon  
Mercy Care  
New Georgia Project Action Fund  
The Law Offices of Samuel Jakes, Jr.

**New Hampshire**

ADCES NH Coordinating Body

New Futures

SEA, SEIU Local 1984

TI International – NH Chapter

**Nevada**

AFSCME Local 4041

Asian Community Development Center

Culinary Union

Faith in Action NV

Immunize Nevada

Kelly-CCE, LLC

Mi Familia Vota

Nevada Women's Lobby

New Day Nevada

ONE Apia Nevada

CC: The Honorable Charles Schumer, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Ron Wyden, Chairman of Senate Committee on Finance