

To: Ohio Congressional Delegation

Date: May 25, 2021

On behalf of Ohio patients, the undersigned organizations urge our Ohio U.S. House Representatives and our U.S. Senators to not accept provisions in H.R. 3 that would implement government mandated pricing for prescription drugs in Medicare.

H.R. 3 includes proposals to set prices that would be established from selected foreign nations. It is important to keep in mind that foreign pricing schemes are accompanied with other foreign policies that include:

- **Discriminatory practices that establish “perfect health” value comparisons, where drug access and effectiveness are determined by “quality-adjusted life year” (QALY):** The United Kingdom, Greece, and Canada are examples of systems that allow QALY determinants to guide who gets what treatments.
- **Restrictions on available drugs and delays to newer medicines:** An example is the 18-month average delay from when cancer drugs are available in the United States, to when patients in other nations have access.
- **Reductions in the research necessary to discover new or advanced medicines:** Arbitrary government price setting disincentivizes investment in our nation’s robust bioscience sector. In our generation, diseases such as HIV/AIDS went from being a death sentence to a chronic disease. Medical innovation has advanced more in our generation than many of us could have dreamed. If we hope to see new, cutting-edge therapies for diseases like Alzheimer’s disease, ALS, or a host of others, we must support policies that foster innovation, rather than restrain it.

We appreciate your efforts to address cost in our system of healthcare. We encourage you to continue this work and do so in a way that protects Ohioans and all Americans who currently experience a healthcare system where the widest variety of medicines are available, newer medicines are introduced, such as our Covid 19 vaccines, and our hospitals, health systems and other bioscience research organizations operate vigorous research programs.

We stand ready to work on solutions that are in the best interests of patients.



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Ohio Medical Group Management Association Ohio Association of Rheumatology Easter Seals of Central & SE Ohio
Ohio State Grange Healing Hearts of Central Ohio Ohio Psychological Association NAMI Ohio