

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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October 25, 2017

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

Dear Mr. President:

We write today—for the third time—to express our profound disappointment that you have chosen not to follow through on your campaign promise to lower drug prices for the American people.

The people who elected you President believed you when you said that prescription drug prices are too high and that drug companies are “getting away with murder”—a claim you continue to repeat. They believed you when you pledged to create a “fair and competitive bidding process” that would result in prices “coming way, way, way down” for American families.

Unfortunately, instead of working with us collaboratively on a proposal to lower drug prices, officials in your Administration reportedly spent the past several months developing an executive order to grant the pharmaceutical industry a wish list of executive actions that would increase drug prices even more—not lower them.

After you invited us to the Oval Office on March 8, we personally handed you a draft of our bill, which would allow the government to negotiate lower drug prices on behalf of Medicare Part D beneficiaries, just like it does for the VA. An astonishing 92% of the American people support this proposal.

During our meeting, we asked not only for your support, but for any constructive feedback from you, your staff, or then-Secretary Tom Price, who also attended the meeting. We were guardedly optimistic about your apparent enthusiasm for our legislation.

After six weeks of hearing nothing from you, Secretary Price, or anyone in the Administration, we wrote to you on April 20 reiterating our desire to work with you and seeking any feedback at all that you had on our proposal. You never responded to our letter. We wrote another letter to you on June 21 again seeking your partnership. Again, you never responded.

It has now been more than seven months since we met with you at the White House, since you told us you wanted to work together, and since we gave you our proposal, which the vast majority of Americans overwhelmingly support.

Last February, you claimed during a press conference that we were avoiding your invitation to work together because it was "bad politics." The truth is that we have made every possible effort to collaborate with you in good faith for the better part of this year. Unfortunately, our efforts were met with radio silence.

The American people can no longer wait for you to make good on your campaign promises to take aggressive action to lower drug prices, and neither can we.

Today, we are introducing the *Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Act*, with endorsements from nearly a dozen organizations, including the Center for Medicare Advocacy, Families USA, the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, Patients for Affordable Drugs, Social Security Works, and The Senior Citizens League.

While your silence and inaction have left us no choice but to move forward without you, we remain eager to work together should you change your mind.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings  
Ranking Member



Peter Welch  
Member of Congress