



The End Price Gouging for Medications Act

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The Problem

Countless Oregonians, Vermonters, and Michiganders have shared their personal stories of having to make the difficult choice between their prescription drugs and other necessities, such as buying groceries or keeping a roof over their head.

Americans, on average, spend over [\\$1,300 on prescription drugs every year](#)—more as a total per capita than patients in any other country—largely because American consumers are charged disproportionately higher drug costs by pharmaceutical companies. [Over a quarter of Americans](#) who take prescription medications say they or a family member have not filled a prescription, have cut pills in half or skipped doses, or have taken an over-the-counter medication instead simply because of the cost.

Though over half of Americans take at least one prescription medication, eighty percent of the public say the cost of their prescription drugs is unreasonable.

The Solution

In order to lower prescription drug prices for American families, the *End Price Gouging for Medications Act* would require the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to ensure Americans do not pay more for prescription drugs than the lowest price per drug in eleven comparable nations: Japan, Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Canada, Australia, Spain, Netherlands, Switzerland, and Sweden.

This legislation would require drug companies to offer prescription drugs at the established reference price to all individuals in the U.S. market. That includes individuals who are uninsured, individuals who are covered under a group health plan, or individuals who have purchased their own individual health insurance coverage.

A drug manufacturer who does not sell at the established reference price will face a civil penalty, for each year in which the violation occurs and for each drug, in an amount equal to five times the difference between the retail list price and reference price. Funds collected from the civil penalties will be transferred to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for conducting drug research and development.

The *End Price Gouging for Medications Act* will finally put a stop to pharmaceutical companies' greed and provide Americans with much-needed relief by ensuring Americans get the best price, not the worst, for their prescription drugs.

The End Price Gouging for Medications Act is endorsed by Public Citizen, Lower Drug Prices Now, the Center for Health and Democracy, the Center for Medicare Advocacy, and Just Care USA.