



Stop Rx Greed: Cut Drug Prices Now

It's unfair that Americans pay the highest prescription drug prices in the world. And it's just wrong that many seniors are forced to choose between filling a prescription or buying groceries. AARP is calling on the President, Congress and state governments to stop Rx Greed and cut drug prices now.

Get the Facts: It's Time to Crack Down on Drug Company Price Gouging

1. Average Medicare Part D enrollee takes 4.5 drugs per month
2. Median annual income for Medicare beneficiaries is \$26,000
3. Prices for brand-name drugs widely used by 50+ people increased by an average of 8.4% in 2017

Commonsense Solutions

Allow Medicare to Negotiate Prescription Prices

Every year the program spends more than \$129 billion on prescription medicines. Medicare is prohibited by law from negotiating lower prices with drug companies and U.S. consumers often pay more than twice as much for the same brand name drugs as patients in similar countries.

AARP URGES CONGRESS to pass legislation that would allow Medicare to use its enormous buying power to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices.

Cap Out-of-Pocket Costs

The Medicare Part D prescription drug program makes medications more affordable for millions of seniors. One in 10 Part D enrollees with high out-of-pocket costs spend at least \$5,200 a year on their medicines. Many of these seniors have chronic conditions—meaning they are facing these high costs for the rest of their lives. This forces many to choose between food or other necessities and medicine.

AARP URGES CONGRESS to pass legislation that would help seniors with high drug costs by capping their out-of-pocket costs.

Improve Access to Lower-Cost Generic Drugs

Brand-name drug companies are slowing the availability of lower-priced versions of their medications by entering into so-called "pay for delay" agreements in which they pay generic drug companies not to produce a competing product. These agreements prevent lower-cost generics from reaching consumers. It's time to crack down on drug company price gouging and stop these pay-for-delay agreements that keep prices artificially high and limit consumer choice and competition.

In addition, the bipartisan Creating and Restoring Equal Access to Equivalent Samples (CREATES) Act would prevent drug manufacturers from blocking the development of lower cost generics. The legislation would require brand name drug makers to provide the information and samples other companies need in order to develop a generic version of the drug.

AARP URGES CONGRESS to pass H.R. 965/S.340, the CREATES Act, and H.R. 1499/S.64 to ban pay-for-delay deals.

Find out more by visiting: aarp.org/Rx

AARP Real Possibilities