

## COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

February 12, 2019

Chairman Richard Neal  
Ways & Means Committee  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Neal,

Thank you for convening today's hearing about prescription drug pricing.

Congress needs to work together to lower out-of-pocket health care costs for Americans by cracking down on overpriced drugs, empowering patients to choose the most affordable medicines for them, and eliminating the incentives in Medicare that reward bad actors and lead to higher prices.

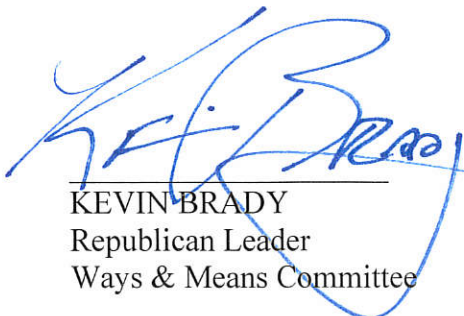
We are optimistic we can work together, on a bipartisan basis, to achieve these goals for the American people.

All too often the headlines reveal another exorbitant price hike on a common medicine that is critical to families. Americans who have taken a particular medicine for years head to the pharmacy and realize their out-of-pocket cost has jumped up, seemingly inexplicably and overnight. We hope the witnesses at today's hearing can help us identify what is causing these frustrating problems.

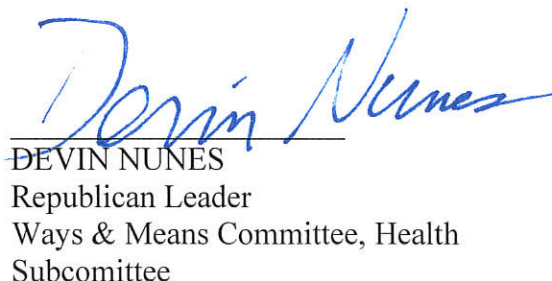
However, we want to be clear: To protect the hope of future medical breakthroughs, Republicans reject Washington price controls that limit American's access to life-saving medicines many families are counting on. We recognize that the Medicare Part B and D programs are in need of reform. But empowering unaccountable, unelected bureaucrats to deny coverage of certain drugs and restrict formulary choice is not the answer. Americans' access to innovative drugs is unparalleled. As this Committee works together to fix skewed incentives in the drug pricing market, it must be mindful to avoid policies that truly jeopardize innovation.

We are grateful for your leadership in this space, as well as that of President Trump and Secretary Azar. We look forward to continuing this discussion.

Sincerely,



KEVIN BRADY  
Republican Leader  
Ways & Means Committee



DEVIN NUNES  
Republican Leader  
Ways & Means Committee, Health  
Subcommittee