

H.R. 19, THE LOWER COSTS, MORE CURES ACT

FIVE MESSAGES and FIVE ACTIONS

TOPLINE MESSAGE:

Americans pay too much for prescription drugs; it's not right, and Congress needs to step up. We have bipartisan solutions – that can become law in 2019 – to lower costs at the drug counter for patients and seniors.

*The **Lower Costs, More Cures Act** uses bipartisan reforms to lower out of pocket spending, protect access to new medicines and cures, strengthen transparency, and champion competition. Every single provision is bipartisan.*

Meanwhile, Speaker Pelosi's partisan drug pricing scheme is not only bad policy, it's never going to become law. We're all here to get things done for the American people – so let's get this done, and let's do it now.

MORE CURES VS. FEWER CURES:

Eliminating just one new drug is one too many – what if one of those new drugs is a cure to Alzheimer's, Sickle Cell, Cancer, or ALS? We need to encourage the innovation of groundbreaking new cures to give hope to those facing sickness.

H.R. 19 → Our plan doesn't crush investment in the research and development of new cures. Pelosi's drug pricing scheme does: even CBO confirms cures could be lost under H.R. 3. Some Democrats have said it is "worth it" to lose new cures in order pass H.R. 3.

AFFORDABILITY AND PREDICTABILITY FOR PATIENTS AND SENIORS:

People don't want a guessing game at the pharmacy counter. They want affordability and predictability.

H.R. 19 → We cap seniors' out-of-pocket costs, for the year, at **\$3,100**. We also put in place a **monthly cap** for Medicare beneficiaries who have very expensive drug costs by "smoothing" – or spreading out – the amount a patient owes throughout the year, which helps seniors with fixed incomes better manage their out-of-pocket prescription drug costs.

TRANSPARENCY:

People deserve the full picture about the price and costs of medicines; they deserve to know what they will be charged instead of getting sticker shock at the pharmacy counter.

H.R. 19 → We require insurance companies to make information about drug costs available in the doctor's office **before a prescription** is written so a patient knows the cost and so doctors can prescribe the medicine that is best and most affordable for them before going to the pharmacy.

COMPETITION:

Increase competition and get more generic medicines to market.

H.R. 19 → We increase low-cost options for patients by bringing more generic and biosimilar competition to the marketplace faster (CREATES, stop “pay for delay” agreements, stop gaming of the patent system, streamline the regulation of over-the counter products).

STRONG TRADE:

Developed countries are unfairly benefiting from American medical innovation while Americans are paying some of the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs. We must stop subsidizing other developed countries’ prescription drugs through stronger trade agreements with real enforcement mechanisms.

H.R. 19 → Our plan establishes a new negotiator at the United States Trade Representative to negotiate and advocate for the American consumer in all international trade agreements with respect to drug prices.