



May 15, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), which represents 134,600 family physicians and medical students across the country, I write to share the organization's support for H.R. 987, the "Strengthening Health Care and Lowering Prescription Drug Costs Act."

The AAFP believes that all people should have access to primary medical care and other essential health care services. Care should be comprehensive, affordable, and include protections for those with financial hardships. Having both health insurance and a [usual source of care](#) (e.g., through an ongoing relationship with a family physician) contributes to better health outcomes, reduced disparities, and lower costs. In fact, a 2016 Oregon [study](#) found that for every dollar spent on patient-centered primary care, there was a savings of \$13 within the health care system.

Family physicians also have a meaningful interest in the drug pricing debate, in part, because the complexity of care and the variation in health conditions is [far greater](#) than that treated by any other specialty. Unfortunately, and too frequently, family physicians encounter patients who cannot afford their medications, which diminishes their ability to adhere to treatment plans. Given the public's reliance on generic products, which represent over 89 percent of all medications filled, increasing access to these drugs must be a top priority. Therefore, the AAFP is pleased HR 987 includes proposals to increase generic drug access through enhanced market competition.

We are pleased to support HR 987 and look forward to working with you to advance other comprehensive health care policies. For more information, please contact Sonya Clay, Government Relations Representative, at 202-232-9033 or [sclay@aaafp.org](mailto:sclay@aaafp.org).

Sincerely,

Michael L. Munger, MD, FAAFP  
Board Chair

cc: Members, U.S. House of Representatives

#### STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA

**President**  
John Cullen, MD  
Valdez, AK

**President-elect**  
Gary LeRoy, MD  
Dayton, OH

**Board Chair**  
Michael Munger, MD  
Overland Park, KS

**Directors**  
Robert Raspa, MD, *Orange Park, FL*  
Leonard Reeves, MD, *Rome, GA*  
Ada Stewart, MD, *Columbia, SC*  
Sterling Ransone, MD, *Deltaville, VA*  
Windel Stracener, MD, *Richmond, IN*  
Erica Swegler MD, *Austin, TX*

James Ellzy, MD, *Washington, DC*  
Dennis Gingrich, MD, *Hershey, PA*  
Tochi Iroku-Malize, MD, *Bay Shore, NY*  
LaTasha Selby Perkins, MD (New Physician Member), *Arlington, VA*  
Michelle Byrne, MD (Resident Member), *Chicago, IL*  
Chandler Stisher (Student Member), *Brownsboro, AL*

**Speaker**  
Alan Schwartzstein, MD  
Oregon, WI

**Vice Speaker**  
Russell Kohl, MD  
Stilwell, KS

**Executive Vice President**  
Douglas E. Henley, MD  
Leawood, KS