



February 11, 2026

The Honorable Morgan Griffith  
Chairman, Health Subcommittee  
House Committee on Energy and  
Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Diana DeGette  
Ranking Member, Health Subcommittee  
House Committee on Energy and  
Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Griffith and Ranking Member DeGette:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), representing more than 128,300 family physicians and medical students across the country, I write to thank you for holding today's hearing titled "Lowering Health Care Costs for All Americans: An Examination of the Prescription Drug Supply Chain."

The AAFP [maintains](#) that the family physician is the patient's advocate. That advocacy demands that the family physician prescribe safe, efficacious pharmaceutical products to deliver high quality medical care, with sensitivity to the patient's individual medical and financial circumstances. About six in ten adults report currently taking at least one prescription drug, and a quarter report taking four or more prescriptions.<sup>i</sup> However, the overwhelming majority of adults (82 percent) find the cost of prescription drugs to be unreasonable and more than half (55 percent) worry about being able to afford their family's medications.<sup>ii</sup> Thus, advocating to lower the exorbitant cost of prescription drugs on behalf of their patients is a salient issue for family physicians.

The Academy finds it deeply troubling that significant shares of patients report not adhering to their physician's recommended course of medication treatment because of cost. Specifically, about one in five adults say they have not filled a prescription and 12 percent say they have rationed their medication (i.e. cut pills in half or skipped a dose).

Across all drugs, U.S. gross drug prices were 278 percent of other countries' prices and 422 percent for brand name originator drugs. Even with the application of manufacturer-paid rebates, U.S. net prices for brand name drugs were three times higher than in other countries.<sup>iii</sup> It is telling that, while most Americans worry about affording their medications, U.S.-based executives for pharmaceutical companies continue to top the list for overall industry compensation. David Ricks – the CEO for Eli Lilly and the industry's second highest paid executive – has seen his compensation balloon from \$15.8 million in 2017 to nearly double (\$29.2 million) in 2024. Pfizer CEO Albert Boula saw a 14 percent increase in his compensation from 2023 to 2024, spiking at \$24.6 million. And Amgen's CEO Robert Bradway rounded out the industry's top four highest paid executives in 2024 with a compensation package of \$24.4 million.

We want to be clear and say that the invaluable work spearheaded by these companies and their executives deserves to be financially recognized. The prescription drugs and other pharmaceutical products they invest in and bring to market are lifechanging and, often, lifesaving. Polling shows that public opinion reflects this, with 63 percent of adults believing prescription drugs developed over the last two decades have generally made our lives better.<sup>iv</sup> Capital investments are necessary to support the research and development of these products and to incentivize further innovation. However, if the price tag associated with a medication leaves it out of reach of those who need it, what's the point of developing them in the first place?

We hope that the Subcommittee will thoroughly examine this issue during today's hearing and explore opportunities to advance policies that will meaningfully improve access to medications for those who need them, including by addressing financial barriers. The AAFP [supports](#) legislation ensuring the availability of effective, safe and affordable medications through policies that support governmental authority to promote competition and availability, transparency, patient-centric pricing, drug price negotiation and review. To advance these goals, the Subcommittee should consider legislation to prohibit abuses of the U.S. patent system, such as pay-for-delay and patent thicket practices, and require drug manufacturers to report to the Department of Health and Human Services information and supporting documentation to justify price increases for drugs and biological products.

Further, the Academy [supports](#) full disclosure to physicians and patients of corporate ties and financial relationships between pharmaceutical manufacturers, mail order pharmacies, pharmacy benefit management entities and pharmacists. Additionally, formulary decisions and "drug switching" should not be based principally on financial considerations, but on evidence-based therapeutic and quality of care considerations, to promote optimal patient care.

Thank you for convening today's hearing to examine the issues within our nation's prescription drug supply chain. The AAFP looks forward to partnering with you to implement reforms that will ensure all patients have access to the medications that they need without financial barriers. Should you have any additional questions, please contact Natalie Williams, Senior Manager of Legislative Affairs, at [nwilliams2@aafp.org](mailto:nwilliams2@aafp.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Brull, MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jen Brull, MD, FAAFP  
American Academy of Family Physicians, Board Chair

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<sup>i</sup> Sparks, G., Kirzinger, A., Montero, A., Valdes, I., & Hamel, L. (2024, October 4). *Public Opinion on Prescription Drugs and Their Prices*. KFF. <https://www.kff.org/health-costs/public-opinion-on-prescription-drugs-and-their-prices/>.

<sup>ii</sup> Ibid.

<sup>iii</sup> Mulcahy, A. W., Schwam, D., & Lovejoy, S. L. (2024). *International Prescription Drug Price Comparisons: Estimates Using 2022 Data* (Research Report RR-A788-3). RAND Corporation.

<sup>iv</sup> Kansteiner, F., Becker, Z., Sagonowsky, E., Liu, A., & Dunleavy, K. (2025, June 16). *Big Pharma's 10 highest-paid CEOs of 2024*. FiercePharma. <https://www.fiercepharma.com/special-reports/big-pharmas-10-highest-paid-ceos-2024>.