

January 18, 2019
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Dear Mr President:

I am concerned about drug dealers. Opioids killed 30,000 Americans last year and the problem continues to rage. This week a study found more overdose deaths in counties in which manufacturers took doctors to lunch more often in the previous year. This week also email surfaced implicating the Sacklers in decades of working to increase addiction in the interests of OxyContin sales. Drug prices remain uncorrelated to costs. One egregious example is Trueda for HIV prevention going for 500 times as much in the US as analogs in Africa. A GAO report also found research skewing away from novel drugs. These are issues you have worked on but the problems point to a failure of the weakly regulated private model for drug development and marketing. These are public goods and like a utility should be either government owned or heavily regulated with those making decisions answerable to the general public and not only a pool of investors with limited liability. Even the threat of criminal prosecution after the fact seems ineffective.

Please assure me that you will regulate drug producers.

I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from our excellent health care.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson