

February 1, 2019
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Dear Mr President:

I am concerned about drug prices. This country hosts some of the worlds greatest drug development labs but access to these drugs has long been a problem. Spectacular examples include pricing for EpiPen and the HIV PrEP drug Trueda but the average amount spent on drugs here is also 50 percent higher than in most of Europe and a quarter of cancer patients report not filling perscriptions due to cost. You have made this a priority but prices remain stubbornly high. Our system is notoriously complex with privately held drug patents, pharmacy benefit managers, both private and government insurance systems, pharmacies, doctors, direct advertising and finally patients. This leaves many places for the system to go wrong and I am pleased to see Secretary Azar working on several fronts including today's announced restrictions on rebates. Drugs have several attributes of public goods and more direct price regulation could both influence research targets (as the orphan drug act and drug patents now do) as well as stabilize prices for consumers.

Please assure me that you will further regulate drug prices.

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

Sincerely,
Eric Babson