

FACT SHEET

H.R. 3: the Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act *Lower Prices, Premiums, and Out-of-Pocket Costs for American Families*

Today, Americans pay three to four times more on average than families in other developed countries for the same drugs. The days of drug companies price gouging Americans at the pharmacy counter must come to an end. That's why Democrats are reintroducing transformational legislation to lower prescription drug prices. **H.R. 3, the Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act, levels the playing field for American patients and taxpayers.**

H.R. 3 lowers the cost of prescription drugs for Americans, penalizes drug companies for price hikes that rise faster than inflation, and caps out-of-pocket costs for Medicare Part D prescription drugs. The legislation:

- **Gives Medicare the power to negotiate directly with drug companies** and creates powerful new tools to force drug companies to the table to agree to real drug price reductions, leading to decreases in premiums and out-of-pocket costs for Americans, while ensuring seniors never lose access to the prescriptions they need;
- **Makes the lower drug prices negotiated by Medicare available to Americans with private insurance**, not just Medicare beneficiaries. This includes workers who get health coverage through their jobs;
- **Stops drug companies from ripping off Americans** by limiting the maximum price for any negotiated drug to be no more than 120 percent of the average price in countries with similar economies to the U.S., where drug companies charge less for the same drugs – and **admit they still make a profit**;
- **Reverses unfair price hikes above inflation across thousands of drugs**;
- **Creates a new, \$2,000 out-of-pocket limit on Part D prescription drugs for Medicare beneficiaries**; and
- **Invests \$10 billion** toward accelerating the search for the next big scientific breakthrough at the National Institutes of Health, **\$2 billion** towards enhancing drug development, review, and safety activities at the Food and Drug Administration, and **\$10 billion** towards combating the opioid crisis.

The American people are fed up with paying more for the same prescription drugs than people in other countries. It is time for Congress to act and provide relief to American families so they are no longer forced to choose between paying for the medicines they need or for their food and rent.