

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Senate Finance Committee Chair Wyden and Members of the U.S. Senate:

Consumers for Quality Care (CQC) is a coalition of advocates, former policy makers and 32 patient and consumer advocacy organizations committed to providing a voice for patients and consumers in the health care debate. We appreciate your continued work on policies to reduce the cost of prescription drugs through reconciliation. However, CQC and our undersigned partners encourage you to ensure that the updated prescription drug pricing reform bill draft also includes components to significantly lower Americans' out-of-pocket health care costs, as they so desperately need.

According to [recent research](#) from Impact Research and Public Opinion Strategies on behalf of CQC, the single biggest health care issue facing Americans is out-of-pocket costs. High deductibles, rising out-of-pocket costs, and unpaid medical bills are plaguing American health care consumers – with 80% of voters feeling that these costs only continue to increase each year.

We ardently support the goal of getting rising health care prices under control for Americans, and we strongly support including the extension of pandemic-era premium subsidies for Americans enrolled in the Affordable Care Act. However, it is our understanding that as drafted, the provisions of the prescription drug pricing reforms will not translate into significant or meaningful health care savings for many beneficiaries below the out-of-pocket maximum, and will have limited impact on what consumers are actually paying out-of-pocket at the pharmacy counter.

Copay caps, which are largely absent from the bill, would lower out-of-pocket costs. We are deeply disappointed that the insulin copay cap was removed from this version of the bill and we urge you to prioritize the inclusion of this and similar copay caps on other drugs as part of the final package. There are more than 37 million Americans living with diabetes, and the \$35 insulin cap alone is guaranteed to help each one when they ultimately become a Medicare beneficiary.

Reducing out-of-pocket health care costs and ensuring patients can access and afford the medications and treatments they need are among our top priorities. We encourage savings from drug pricing policies in the reconciliation package to be reinvested in ways that reduce out-of-pocket spending for the American people so they can keep more money in their wallets.

Thank you for your continued work to improve health care in our country. For more information on initiatives consumers believe will help lower their costs, please visit CQC's [2022 Negotiator's Guide to Health Care Reform](#).

Sincerely,
Consumers for Quality Care
AIDS United

Allergy & Asthma Network
Adult Health & Fitness Today
Black Aids Institute
Black Women's Health Imperative
Choose Healthy Life
Color of Crohn's and Chronic Illness
Fatty Liver Foundation
MANA, A National Latina Organization
National Consumers League
The Myositis Association (TMA)

Non-Partners
Sjögren's Foundation
Transplant Recipients International Organizations (TRIO)
United Ostomy Associations of America