

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 12, 2018

The Honorable Donald Trump  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

During your State of the Union Address, you claimed, “One of my greatest priorities is to reduce the price of prescription drugs,” and that you directed your “Administration to make fixing the injustice of high drug prices one of our top priorities. Prices will come down.”<sup>1</sup> But the fact is, prices are continuing to skyrocket. Reports show that major drug companies have drastically raised prices for top-selling drugs over the past five years, in some cases more than doubling prices. This is only getting worse. In the last month and a half, leading drug companies instituted over 100 price increases for best-selling drugs.<sup>2</sup>

We write to urge you to make good on your promise and make fixing the problem of high drug prices a top priority for you and your Administration. Prescription drugs represent the highest out-of-pocket health care expense for Americans and we have heard from countless constituents who are struggling to afford their medications that they have relied on for years. They want Washington to act, which is why we have offered a bipartisan solution to hold the pharmaceutical industry accountable for double-digit price increases, the *FAIR Drug Pricing Act*, and we call on you to work with us to pass this legislation.

Drug companies are making lifesaving treatments unaffordable and are forcing families, seniors, taxpayers and our health care system to continue to foot the bill for these price increases with no systematic transparency. It is clear that the market is broken. We have offered a simple bipartisan solution that holds the pharmaceutical industry accountable and institutes basic transparency. The *FAIR Drug Pricing Act* (S.1131) would require drug manufacturers to notify your Administration and submit a transparency report before substantially increasing the price of certain drugs. This will provide taxpayers, consumers and policymakers with more information, including research and development, marketing and advertising costs.

Transparency is a critical first step in tackling the complex problem of high prescription drug prices, so our actions should start at the beginning of the story. You promised to take on high drug prices as your top priority, so we urge you to call on leadership in Congress to take up and pass our bipartisan legislation. We stand ready to work with you and our colleagues in Congress to address skyrocketing prescription drug prices so that American families can finally be afforded the relief they so desperately need.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



John McCain  
United States Senator

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-state-union-address/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fiercepharma.com/pharma/drug-price-hikes-a-few-bad-actors-or-widespread-pharma>