

Make Medications Affordable by Preventing Pandemic Price-gouging Act **Senator Tina Smith (D-Minn.) and Senator Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.)**

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a public health and economic crisis that has ravaged communities across the United States. Millions of individuals have been infected with the virus, and the economic fallout from the pandemic will likely be felt for years to come. Safe, effective, and accessible medications—including a future vaccine—are essential to overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic. After investing billions of dollars into the development and manufacturing of several COVID-19 treatments and vaccine candidates, the American people deserve access to these medications without financial barriers.

Senators Smith and Merkley's *Make Medications Affordable by Preventing Pandemic Price-gouging (MMAPPP) Act* ensures that any taxpayer-funded vaccine or treatment for COVID-19 proven to be safe and effective will be accessible, affordable, and available to all individuals.

Specifically, the *MMAPPP Act* would:

- Prohibit monopolies and exclusive licensing of taxpayer-funded drugs that are used to diagnose, mitigate, prevent, or treat COVID-19 to ensure these drugs are universally and fairly accessible;
- Require the federal government to mandate reasonably affordable prices for any new, taxpayer-funded drugs used to diagnose, mitigate, prevent, or treat COVID-19;
- Safeguard transparency by requiring manufacturers to publicly report a detailed breakdown of expenditures related to any drug used to diagnose, mitigate, prevent, or treat COVID-19, including specifying what percentage of expenditures were sourced from taxpayers; and
- Prevent price gouging of drugs used to treat future diseases that would cause a public health emergency by waiving exclusive licenses and providing companies reasonable compensation.

The *MMAPPP Act* will prevent pharmaceutical companies from profiting off the global pandemic while providing Americans with access to treatment they can afford.

The MMAPPP Act is endorsed by Public Citizen; Lower Drug Prices Now; Patients for Affordable Drugs; Families USA; ACT UP Philadelphia; AIDS Healthcare Foundation; the Alliance for Retired Americans; American Federation of Teachers; American Muslim Health Professionals; Americans for Tax Fairness; Arkansas Community Organizations; CASA in Action; Center for Popular Democracy Action; Coalition on Human Needs; Communities United; Congregation of Our Lady of the Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces; Consumer Action; Consumers' Checkbook/CSS; Equality North Carolina; Faith in Healthcare; Hero Action Fund; Hispanic Federation; Indivisible; Knowledge Ecology International; MomsRising; NASTAD; National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd; NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice; Oxfam America; Peoples Action; Public Advocacy for Kids; Right to Health; Pandemic Prevention Project; Social Security Works; Treatment Action Group; Young Invincibles; AFL-CIO.