



Help Patients Stop Paying More for Medications Cosponsor the Lowest Price for Patients Act

Led by Reps. Katie Porter and Rosa DeLauro

Cosponsors: Raul Grijalva, Jahana Hayes, Ro Khanna, Joe Neguse, John B. Larson, Steve Cohen

Endorsements: Social Security Works, The Arc of the United States, Public Citizen, Alliance for Retired Americans, Lower Drug Prices Now, Indivisible, Medicare Rights Center

According to research published in [JAMA](#), **patients overpaid by more than 33 percent for 12 of the 20 most commonly prescribed drugs.** For seniors, it can be even worse: people with Medicare Part D drug insurance overpaid for prescriptions by \$135 million and copayments in those plans were higher than the cash price for nearly 1 in 4 drugs purchased. And for decades, there was nothing that patients or providers could do about it.

A bipartisan [bill](#) signed into law in 2018 changed that: It banned “gag orders” that prevented pharmacists from telling patients if they could save money by paying the pharmacy’s cash price instead of using insurance. These “gag orders” were included in contracts with pharmacy benefit managers, third-party companies that manage prescription drug benefits on behalf of health insurers, Medicare Part D plans, employers, and other payers. This includes negotiating rebates from pharmaceutical companies and discounts from pharmacies.

While the repeal of the “gag orders” was an important step towards increased price transparency, many patients still don’t know that they should ask these questions when they go to pay for their prescriptions. **The Lowest Price for Patients Act builds on that policy by requiring pharmacies disclose this information to patients. This will help every patient access the lowest price possible:**

- The bill simply removes language requiring that they “not restrict, directly or indirectly” and replaces it with a mandate to provide this information.
- It includes Medicare Part D, Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Coverage, group health plans, or other health insurance issuers.

Patients are required to keep track of so many different pieces of medical information. This legislation alleviates one piece of that burden to help them make informed decisions when they purchase their prescriptions.

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