

Learning about Legislation #51 - H.R. 3: Lower Drug Costs Now Act of 2019

We are revisiting this segment from earlier this year, because there is news that this bill is going to come to the floor for a vote next week. All sorts of interests - both industry and political - are running [advertisements](#) against the bill. They are calling it all sorts of ridiculous names (socialism!) and misrepresenting its contents. Why not read up on what's ACTUALLY in the bill...

[H.R. 3: Lower Drug Costs Now Act of 2019](#)

Our friends at the [Pennsylvania Health Action Network](#) sent over some excellent information on the Democrats' new plan to address skyrocketing prescription drug prices. They shared this recap of the newly announced bill:

H.R. 3, the Lower Drug Costs Now Act, would finally require prescription drug companies to negotiate with Medicare for lower prices on a range of drugs. The benefits of those negotiations would help not only people who are covered by Medicare, but also those covered by private insurance plans. This bill is transformative and long overdue.

The bill also penalizes drug companies for price gouging and stops them from charging Americans many times more than what people in other countries pay for the same drug. These are commonsense solutions that will help not only our seniors, but also millions of other Americans.

If you are interested in more of the specifics in the bill, you can find additional details in the *Washington Post* article titled "[Pelosi rolls out long-awaited bill to lower prescription drug costs.](#)" The sponsor of the bill, Rep. Frank Pallone (D-N.J.) the Chair of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, included even more information in a [press release](#) on his website:

The Lower Drug Costs Now Act would level the playing field for American patients and taxpayers by:

- Ending the ban on Medicare negotiating directly with drug companies and creating powerful new tools to force drug companies to the table to agree to real price reductions.
- Giving all Americans access to lower drug prices negotiated by the federal government.
- Stopping drug companies from ripping off Americans while charging other countries less for the same drugs by limiting the maximum price for any negotiated drug to be in line with the average price in countries like ours.
- Creating a new, \$2,000 out-of-pocket limit on prescription drug costs for Medicare beneficiaries and reversing years of unfair price hikes above inflation across thousands of drugs in Medicare.
- Reinvesting in innovation and the search for new cures and treatments. Pallone hopes to use the anticipated cost-savings from lowering drug prices to reinvest in the search for new breakthrough treatments and cures at the National Institutes of Health, as well as investing in our nation's health care including improvements to Medicare.

This is an issue that directly affects most Americans. Please consider taking the next step and calling your MoCs if you feel Congress should pass this excellent new bill!