



January 10, 2019

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
United States Senate
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
United States House of Representatives
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Sanders and Representative Cummings:

On behalf of the over 57 million Americans receiving Social Security benefits, Social Security Works strongly supports your Affordable and Safe Prescription Drug Importation Act and Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Act.

The first of these proposals would allow beneficiaries and other Americans to safely purchase prescription drugs at a more affordable rate than ever before. The second, allows the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate prices on behalf of beneficiaries. The price of prescription drugs in America is far too high and your bill would provide relief for millions of Americans who need it most.

The Affordable and Safe Prescription Drug Importation Act is an essential first step to ensuring seniors, disabled Americans, and many others have access to affordable prescription drugs. By allowing Americans the freedom to buy safe prescription drugs from licensed, FDA-certified foreign sellers, Congress will save lives and ensure a quality life for the most vulnerable Americans.

Also important is allowing negotiating power for the largest purchaser of prescription drugs in the United States, Medicare. Private insurance companies are able to negotiate drug prices for their beneficiaries, but the government cannot do the same for Medicare beneficiaries. The system is outwardly unfair. American seniors disproportionately rely on vital prescription drugs, yet pharmaceutical corporations continue to sell their products to Americans at outrageous prices. [It is estimated that Americans 65 and older would pay a retail price of more than \\$26,000 for brand name drug therapy.](#) These prices are only expected to increase over time.

As the current cost-of-living adjustment continues to erode Social Security benefits, we enthusiastically support your legislation to provide access to lower-costing drugs to Americans. Thank you for your continued work on behalf of Social Security beneficiaries today and into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy J. Altman".

Nancy J. Altman
President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Lawson".

Alex Lawson
Executive Director