

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 18, 2018

Kellyanne Conway
Counselor to the President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. Conway:

As members of the Affordable Prescription Drug Task Force, we write to you today regarding our shared concern for the skyrocketing price of the lifesaving opioid overdose reversal drug naloxone. With approximately 115 Americans dying each day from an opioid overdose, unaffordable and therefore inaccessible naloxone is a national crisis. President Trump has declared and extended a public health emergency declaration and the Surgeon General has issued a rare public health advisory urging individuals to carry naloxone. And yet the price for naloxone has risen dramatically throughout this crisis.

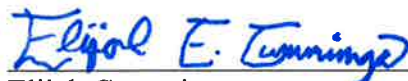
In early 2017, Kaleo Pharmaceuticals spiked the price of its naloxone auto-injector Evzio from \$575 to \$4,500, representing a 682% increase. Additionally, while there are three manufacturers of the 0.4 ml injectable formulation of naloxone, prices continue to rise dramatically. Hospira, which sells the majority of injectable formulations of naloxone, has increased prices by 129% from 2012 to 2016—the same period when opioid overdose deaths were rising.


Under 28 U.S.C. § 1498, federal agencies have the authority to use patented inventions for a “reasonable and entire compensation” when in the interest of the public good. The current opioid crisis requires invoking this provision. With the increased demand on these drugs to equip police, emergency medical providers, schools, families, and friends, the burden on public programs has become overwhelming. Pharmaceutical corporations have unchecked power to raise the prices of their drugs as much as they want. In the case of naloxone, access to the drug is literally a matter of life and death.

Given the serious and exploitative price gouging occurring, and the severity of the crisis, we strongly urge the Administration to grant the May 3, 2018 request submitted by the Baltimore City Health Department and Public Citizen to use section 1498 to lower the price of naloxone.

Sincerely,


Lloyd Doggett


Elijah Cummings



Peter Welch

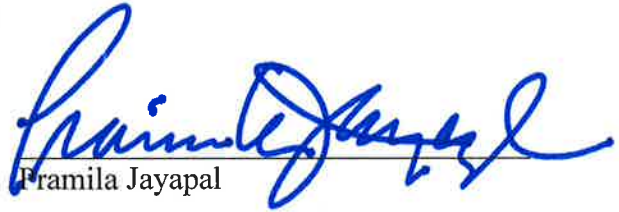


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Ro Khanna



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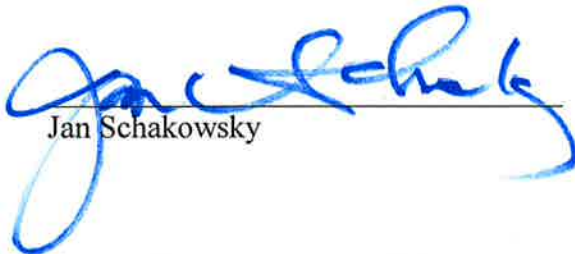
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