



May 28, 2021

Re: Opposition to H.R. 3 – Lower Drug Costs Now Act

Dear Members of the California Congressional Delegation:

On behalf of Familia Unida Living with MS (Familia Unida) – a nonprofit serving vulnerable populations living with MS, disabilities and other chronic illness – and the undersigned organizations, we're writing to express our strong opposition to H.R. 3.

Much like the previous version of this bill, this legislation would decimate California's innovative ecosystem and threaten patients' access to much-needed treatments, particularly for older adults and those living with a disability or chronic illness.

In every country where governments have set artificially low prices for medicines, patients have faced significant access restrictions and delays to new treatments. For example, there is an 18-month average lag between the time cancer treatments are available in the U.S. versus other developed countries. And, countries with government-mandated price controls have fewer available treatment options. While nearly 90% of new medicines launched from 2011 to 2018 are available in the U.S., just 59% are available in the U.K., 50% in France, and 36% in Australia.

What's equally as troubling is how in many of these countries, prices are typically based on value assessments, which heavily discriminate against patients that are most in need, such as those with chronic conditions, rare diseases, communities of color, and Medicare beneficiaries.

This is such an important issue to me that I created the Your Voice Your Value program in 2020 to stand up against the dangerous practice of value assessments, and envision a future where people are not defined by the prices of their treatments. Patients deserve to have a voice in the treatment they receive, and value assessments reduce their choices. We cannot allow for H.R. 3 to introduce value assessments into our healthcare system.

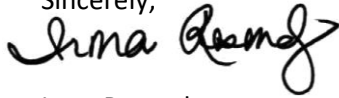
Passing H.R. 3 directly contradicts America's standing as a scientific powerhouse and negatively impacts our state's emerging biotech companies. By suppressing the nation's biggest innovators, the very same people that have developed COVID-19 vaccines, Americans will see fewer new medicines each year.

A recent study found that if H.R. 3 had been in place over the last 10 years, California would have seen an 88% reduction in medicines coming to market. Considering we still don't have treatments for Alzheimer's, ALS, and other rare and complex diseases, risking the development of future cures and treatments is the last thing patients need.

As California's leading patient advocates and community health organizations, we understand the need for health care costs to decrease; however, we cannot limit access and innovation in doing so. Particularly in the wake of COVID-19, it's irresponsible to move a proposal forward that stifles vital innovation and is detrimental to the quality of life for people.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter, as well as your continued service to California. I'd welcome the opportunity to speak with you more about this, and please feel free to contact me at (323) 418-2667 or iresendez@familia-unida.org.

Sincerely,



Irma Resendez
Chief Executive Officer/Founder

Familia Unida Living with MS provides unconditional love, hope and support to individuals and families living with MS and disabilities to maximize the quality of life.



Albie Aware Breast Cancer Foundation



Applied Pharmacy Solutions



California Black Health Network



California Chronic Care Coalition



California Chronic Care Coalition in San Diego County



California Health Collaborative



California Hepatitis C Task Force



Carrie's Touch



Community Health Action Network



Embracing Latina Leadership Alliances
Educational, STEM and Leadership Program

Embracing Latina Leadership Alliances (ELLAS)



FAIR foundation



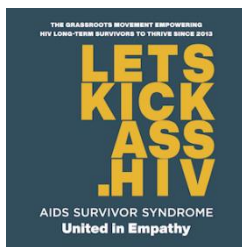
Healthy African American Families, II



Liver Coalition of San Diego



Liver Wellness Foundation



Let's Kick ASS AIDS Survivor Syndrome



Looms for Lupus



Los Angeles County Medical Association



Los Angeles Wellness Station



Mexican American Opportunity Foundation



Sickle Cell Disease Foundation



THE WALL
Las Memorias

The Wall Las Memorias