June 2, 2021

Dear Michigan Congressional Delegation,

In the last year, Michigan's most vulnerable populations have faced experiences they never expected. The challenges we all felt as a result of COVID-19 were magnified particularly for the elderly, chronically ill and disabled.

Now, a new challenge is on the horizon for those who need lifesaving medicines: H.R. 3 and the government negotiated price scale that it proposes.

Saving a life requires treatment options and speed. Right now, Americans have access to more treatments than any other developed country, and beyond that: Americans have access to treatments sooner after development. In America, nearly 90% of the new medicines launched between 2011 and 2018 are available to patients, compare that to France, where only 50% of those medicines are currently available to patients.

The reality is that government price negotiation will not provide a reduction in costs unless access to certain medications is also restricted. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has found this time and time again. This means taking away treatment options for doctors and patients – and potentially costing lives.

By setting prices, the government will be coming between physicians and patients. Further, because treatment access will necessarily be restricted, it will also be stifling investment in research and development. Every $1-2 billion reduction in R&D investments leads to one less new medicine per year. The most complicated diseases, such as Alzheimer's, ALS and Parkinson's are often the riskiest to invest in and could be the first to see less investment.

As our representatives in Washington, we ask that you vote no on H.R. 3, the Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act, because nothing should stand between a doctor's treatment plan and a patient.

Sincerely,

Michigan Biosciences Industry Association (MichBio)
American Arab Chamber of Commerce
Michigan Osteopathic Association
Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council
Michigan Lupus Foundation