



December 10, 2019

Dear Representative:

AARP, on behalf of our 38 million members and all older Americans, urges you to vote yes on H.R. 3, *the Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act*. This important legislation is a bold step toward lowering prescription drug prices and improving Medicare for seniors and families across the country.

Every day, we hear about the tough decisions older Americans face as drug prices continue to skyrocket. Medicare beneficiaries, on average, take between four and five prescription medications each month and have a median income of just over \$26,000 a year. They simply can't afford skyrocketing prescription drug prices. Many older Americans with chronic conditions will face these increasingly high costs every year for the rest of their lives.

AARP supports H.R. 3 because it would help individuals and families afford their medications by lowering drug prices and capping out-of-pocket costs. The bill requires Medicare to negotiate for lower prices on high cost drugs that do not face competition and it allows people with private insurance to take advantage of those lower prices. It protects seniors by putting a \$2,000 out-of-pocket cap in Part D. Finally, H.R. 3 would crack down on drug companies that price gouge older Americans with relentless price increases, forcing them to choose between taking their medicine and paying their bills.

AARP supports the critical investments H.R. 3 makes in the Medicare program. AARP has long supported closing the gaps in health coverage by including dental, hearing, and vision coverage in the Medicare program. The lack of coverage for these important health benefits can jeopardize the health of older Americans and drive up health care spending. The reinvestment of savings in H.R. 3 would help older Americans get complete health care coverage.

We are also pleased that the bill would provide key investments for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) who play an instrumental role in the research and development of groundbreaking cures and life-saving treatments. Similarly, we applaud expanding the Medicare Savings Program for low income seniors and adding guaranteed access for beneficiaries enrolling in Medigap plans. These and other changes would lower out-of-pocket costs for millions of beneficiaries.

AARP urges you to vote to rein in high drug prices, reduce seniors' out-of-pocket costs, and add essential coverage – including hearing, dental, and vision benefits – to Medicare. H.R. 3 will help more Americans afford their prescription drugs and get the care they need to stay healthy.

Sincerely,

Nancy A. LeaMond
Executive Vice President and
Chief Advocacy and Engagement Officer