April 22, 2021

The Honorable Joe Biden
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

On behalf of our nearly 38 million members and all older Americans nationwide, I write to urge your continued support for reforms that will lower drug prices and costs for all Americans, and especially for older Americans. 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. In 2018, the price of prescription drugs widely used by older American increased at twice the rate of inflation. In fact, drug prices have been increasing more than inflation every year for at least a decade. Older Americans simply can’t afford skyrocketing prescription drug prices, and those with chronic conditions will face these high and rising costs every year for the rest of their lives. Alarmingly, one out of three Americans do not take their prescriptions as prescribed because they cannot afford the medicine. These treatments do not work if patients cannot afford to take them.

AARP strongly supports policies that will help individuals and families afford their medications by lowering drug prices and capping out-of-pocket costs. Specifically, we support policies to allow for drug price negotiation, especially for brand-name drugs in the Medicare program, an out-of-pocket cap for Medicare Part D, and efforts to crack down on relentless drug price increases, including an inflation-based rebate for drugs covered by Medicare. These reforms would make a huge difference in the lives of Americans over the age of 50, who too often have to choose between taking their medicine and paying their bills.

AARP has long championed drug pricing reform and we stand ready to work with your Administration to finally accomplish this goal. Two important pieces of legislation from the previous Congress demonstrated there is bipartisan support in Congress for action to lower drug prices. Moreover, there is clear bipartisan support among Americans – who are tired of paying the highest drug prices in the world – for action to lower drug prices and costs.
We know this will be a hard fight, but the time to act is now. We cannot miss this opportunity to deliver relief for older Americans. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how we can work together to lower drug prices for the millions of Americans who need it.

Sincerely,

Jo Ann C. Jenkins
Chief Executive Officer