



Drug Pricing that Puts People, Not Profit, at the Center

NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice is concerned about healthcare issues because healthcare is a right that supports the dignity of all people. We seek a healthcare system where all are able to receive quality, affordable care regardless of their socioeconomic status. Affordable drug pricing is a key component to ensure all people receive the care they need.

Wealth should never determine a person's access to lifesaving drug treatment, but the current reality means that people at the bottom half of the income scale are left out. NETWORK urges Congress to end the abusive practices of the pharmaceutical industry that prioritize profits over people. In a just society, no one should suffer because they cannot afford medication.

Human life is more important than company profits.

In a country where [1 in 4 people](#) have trouble paying for their medication, people face an unconscionable choice: fill a prescription or go without other necessities like food. No patient should have to face a death sentence in the same world where a simple treatment exists.

Current drug monopolies do not serve the common good.

The abusive tactics employed by pharmaceutical companies today prevent affordable generic drugs from entering the market. This practice prohibits patients from having affordable options.

Congress must legislate to prevent arbitrary pharmaceutical price increases.

In the current system, there is no set standard to determine the price of a drug and no transparency about how these decisions are made. As a result, companies have free reign to set their own prices, and arbitrarily impose significant price spikes.

The public should reap the benefits of public investment in pharmaceutical research and development.

Drug companies are reliant on public dollars for research and development to fund their innovations. Currently, those public investments are neither being reimbursed to the public coffers nor benefitting individuals through lower prescription drug prices. Therefore, the public should directly realize a return on their investment in drugs that are successful in the market.

Government agencies must be able to negotiate drug prices.

The theory of a free market economy means that healthy competition drives prices down. Collective bargaining power is an important tool for ensuring fair prices are paid.