



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Coalition Opposes H.R. 3 Due To Drastic Changes to Medicare Part B

Last week, House Democratic leadership released their drug pricing legislation, H.R. 3, the Lower Drug Costs Now Act. This legislation would provide broad new authority to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), allowing them to negotiate on up to 250 brand-name drugs and to set prices, which would be capped at 1.2-times the prices charged in certain international markets. It should be noted that most of these markets operate under a fundamentally different philosophy than we do in the U.S. and, alarmingly, often fail to afford citizens the same access and value determinations that we currently see. Furthermore, not only would these price controls be required under Medicare, but also in the commercial market. **We have grave concerns with the sweeping impacts H.R. 3 would have on Medicare Part B and, most importantly, on access to life-changing medicines for patients served by this important program.**

As we have outlined in the past, we have serious apprehension about introducing arbitrary international pricing models and the impact these models will have on patient access, providers' ability to deliver patient-centric care, and the future introduction of innovative medicines. These concerns are highlighted in our December 10, 2018 [letter](#) to House and Senate leadership, which was signed by 339 patient and provider organizations. These untested pricing proposals will have devastating consequences within an already vulnerable patient population, as they will undermine seniors' access to new and existing treatment regimens.

The Part B Access for Seniors and Physicians (ASP) Coalition understands the cost constraints across our healthcare system. We are committed to maintaining a strong Medicare Part B program that defends patients and providers from the threats like those contained in H.R. 3.

For more information please visit www.PartBAccess.org