



Julie Bleyhl

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Joseph Schulte

AFSCME Council 65
Public Affairs Coordinator
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Date 10/05/2021

Dear Senator Klobuchar,

On behalf of the over 56,500 members of AFSCME Council 5 and AFSCME Council 65 and their families we thank you for your strong support of President Biden's Build Back Better agenda that Congress will consider shortly. Specifically, we appreciate your efforts on the side of all working families and retirees when it comes to lowering prescription drug prices for Medicare and health plans that cover AFSCME members. When drug corporations price a drug so high that it is out of reach it is unacceptable and puts our health and financial security in jeopardy. It also means that our health care premiums and out-of-pocket costs will go up. Lowering the cost of prescription drugs is a priority for our councils, our members, and our retirees, and their families across Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

Regardless of whether people get their health coverage through a job, the Affordable Care Act, or through Medicare or other insurance, we need the government to be on our side to negotiate lower drug prices. If Congress takes action to limit government negotiations to lower only Medicare drug prices, then drug manufacturers would likely seek to raise prices elsewhere. This would harm AFSCME members and their families who rely on job-based or private insurance, which in 2019 accounted for 56% of the population (compared to 14% who get their coverage through Medicare).

Drug corporations put profits over patients raising prices faster than the rate of inflation for all Americans because there is no law or enforceable policy to stop them. For working families and retirees that means the cost of essential medications eat up more and more of their income each year. From 2007 to 2018, net prescription drug prices increased every year 3.5 times faster than inflation. Drug corporations have not stopped increasing prices during the pandemic. In January 2021, the list price of over 800 brand name and generic drugs increased by an average of 4.5%, nearly double the rate of inflation. We ask that you make sure that limits on annual drug price increases cover both Medicare and group health plans. Congress must not give drug corporations a loophole to keep raising prices on plans that cover the majority of Americans, including our members.

Therefore, we urge you to continue standing with working families and retirees and not drug corporations. Please pass legislation that will finally unrig the rules favoring drug corporations and make prescription drug prices lower for all of us.

In solidarity,

Julie Bleyhl
Executive Director
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Shannon Douvier
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American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

Council 05 300 Hardman Ave S, South St. Paul MN, 55075

Council 65 3335 West St. Germain, Suite 107, St. Cloud, MN 56301





Date 10/05/2021



Dear Representative Phillips,

Julie Bleyhl

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Date 10/05/2021

Dear Representative Craig,

On behalf of the over 56,500 members of AFSCME Council 5 and AFSCME Council 65 and their families we thank you for your strong support of President Biden's Build Back Better agenda that Congress will consider shortly. Specifically, we appreciate your efforts on the side of all working families and retirees when it comes to lowering prescription drug prices for Medicare and health plans that cover AFSCME members. When drug corporations price a drug so high that it is out of reach it is unacceptable and puts our health and financial security in jeopardy. It also means that our health care premiums and out-of-pocket costs will go up. Lowering the cost of prescription drugs is a priority for our councils, our members, and our retirees, and their families across Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

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Date 10/05/2021

Dear Senator Smith,

We ask you to stand up for the over 56,500 members of AFSCME Council 5 and AFSCME Council 65 and their families in support of President Biden's Build Back Better agenda that Congress will consider shortly. Specifically, we are asking that you stand on the side of all working families and retirees when it comes to lowering prescription drug prices for Medicare and health plans that cover AFSCME members. When drug corporations price a drug so high that it is out of reach it is unacceptable and puts our health and financial security in jeopardy. It also means that our health care premiums and out-of-pocket costs will go up. Lowering the cost of prescription drugs is a priority for our councils, our members, and our retirees, and their families across Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

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Date 10/05/2021

Dear Representative McCollum,

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Dear Representative Omar,

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