

# PROTECT OUR CARE

**\*\* Weekly Wrap Up \*\***

[November 6 - November 12, 2021]



*Maine lawmakers and health care advocates joined Protect Our Care Maine to call on Congress to pass the Build Back Better Act legislation immediately.*

## **Ahead of Next Week's House Vote, Navigator Polling Confirms Health Care Remains the Most Important Reason to Pass Build Back Better**

New polling from Navigator Research released yesterday confirms that health care reforms remain the most popular part of President Biden's Build Back Better Act. The poll found that voters believe that the measures to lower drug prices, bring down insurance premiums, and expand Medicare are the top reasons Congress should pass the Build Back Better Act. [Other polling](#) has consistently shown public support for these reforms.

[A closer look at the results:](#)

**Voters Agree the Best Reasons to Pass Build Back Better Are Medicare Negotiation for Lower Drug Prices, Expanding Medicare, and Reducing the Cost of Health Insurance.** When it comes to policies that affect them directly, voters say giving Medicare the power to negotiate,

expanding Medicare benefits, and making insurance more affordable are the best reasons to pass the plan.

Below is a list of some proposals being considered for this economic plan. Please indicate if you think each is a good reason to pass the plan.

		Good reason to pass plan	Not good reason to pass plan	Dem	Ind	Good Reason to Pass Plan					Econ. Pers.
	*/** Split sample					Rep	Black	Hisp.	White	AAPI	
	*Lowering health insurance premiums	82 53% very good reason	18	97	85	63	91	91	78	91	95
	**Lowering health insurance premiums for people who buy health care on their own	80 47% very good reason	20	92	82	66	89	80	79	83	92
**Giving Medicare power to negotiate lower drug prices and capping prescription drug costs for seniors		80 47% very good reason	20	92	78	68	83	76	81	88	93
	*Giving Medicare the power to negotiate for lower drug prices	77 52% very good reason	23	94	78	57	89	85	74	91	92
**Stopping big corporations and the rich from paying next to nothing in taxes each year		76 53% very good reason	24	94	82	55	82	75	75	87	86
	**Expanding Medicare to cover things like hearing aids	75 44% very good reason	25	91	77	56	86	79	72	84	84
	Making childcare more affordable	74 45% very good reason	26	92	75	52	90	77	70	84	87
	It would not raise taxes on those earning less than \$400,000 annually	73 47% very good reason	27	92	73	50	81	77	70	88	85
	*Expanding Medicare to cover hearing	73 44% very good reason	27	94	73	50	86	83	70	88	83
Investing in home care workers by offering benefits like adding millions of new home care/education jobs		70 37% very good reason	30	92	73	45	85	79	66	82	82
	*Raising taxes on the rich and corporations to make sure they pay their fair share	69 49% very good reason	31	95	70	38	86	76	65	73	84
	Creating clean, renewable energy jobs that help combat climate change	69 44% very good reason	31	94	68	41	86	73	65	90	84
	**Providing four weeks of paid family and medical leave	68 36% very good reason	32	87	70	46	87	78	63	79	75
**Ensuring every family with three- and four-year-old children can send them to pre-kindergarten		67 37% very good reason	33	90	66	40	85	76	62	82	78
	*Providing free pre-kindergarten for three- and four-year-old children	66 40% very good reason	34	90	63	40	89	86	60	79	77
	Continuing the new, expanded child tax credit for most families with children	66 34% very good reason	34	87	67	41	84	71	61	84	74

† "Economically persuadable Americans" are those who disapprove of Biden's handling of the economy, but support new economic legislation on separate questions. Nationwide survey of 1,003 registered voters conducted November 4-November 8, 2021. For more info, visit [navigatortorsearch.org](https://navigatortorsearch.org).

navigator.

## FACT CHECK: Republican Campaign Of Lies On Drug Pricing Reform Fueled By Pharma Contributions

As Democrats are set to pass the Build Back Better Act, Republican lawmakers are fighting to block its most popular provision: giving Medicare the power to negotiate lower prescription drug prices. A closer look at campaign contributions reveals these GOP lawmakers are deeply tied to big drug companies, which explains why Republicans are spreading lies and trying to mislead the American people. In reality, voters across the [political spectrum](#) are demanding action to reign in Big Pharma's greed and lower drug prices now.

Republican House Leader Kevin McCarthy: "Democrats are working overtime to eliminate innovation in new drugs and therapeutics and to allow Washington bureaucrats to decide which drugs seniors can take." [\[11/5/21\]](#)

**FACT CHECK:** Medicare drug price negotiation included in the Build Back Better Act allows the federal government to establish fair prices with drug makers, not decide what medications Medicare beneficiaries can and cannot access. A 2017 [report](#) from the National Academies of Medicine on lowering costs and protecting innovation concluded, "drugs that are not affordable are of little value." Build Back Better works to ensure Americans have access to the medications they need at prices they can afford.

**PHARMA INFLUENCE:** Rep. Kevin McCarthy was the number one recipient of contributions from the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry in 2020, receiving [\\$242,353](#) in contributions.

**House Republican Conference Chair Elise Stefanik:** “Under Pelosi's plan, these companies would be forced to cut research and design spending on new drugs, leading to fewer cures and lifesaving breakthroughs for individuals and families most in need of hope.” [\[6/4/21\]](#)

**FACT CHECK:** Deciding between lowering drug prices and ensuring innovation is a false choice. Between 2016 and 2020, 14 leading drugmakers spent [\\$577 billion](#) on stock buybacks and dividends—*\$56 billion more* than what was invested in research and development over the same period. One company, Amgen, spent nearly six times more on executive pay, buybacks, and dividends than it did on research and development in 2018.

**PHARMA INFLUENCE:** In the 2020 election cycle, Rep. Elise Stefanik received [\\$67,956](#) from the pharmaceutical/health products industry. She has received an additional [\\$6,043](#) for the 2022 cycle.

**Energy & Commerce Ranking Member Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers:** “More federal command and control over our health care will lead to less innovation [and] fewer cures.” [\[10/19/21\]](#)

**FACT CHECK:** Research has demonstrated that impacts from lowering drug prices can be successfully [mitigated](#) by large pharmaceutical companies reducing their spending on things like stock buybacks and dividends. This is not a make or break issue for the pharmaceutical industry. Drug companies could lose [\\$1 trillion](#) in sales, while maintaining research developments, and still be the most profitable industry, because pharmaceutical companies enjoy profit margins nearly [three times](#) the average for the S&P 500. Between 2000 and 2018, 35 large drug companies raked in a combined revenue of [\\$11.5 trillion](#) with a gross profit of \$8.6 trillion -- far more than other large companies.

**PHARMA INFLUENCE:** Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers has received nearly \$60,000 from the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry so far in the 2022 election cycle. Rep. McMorris Rodgers is the number one Republican recipient of contributions from the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry in the 2022 election cycle. So far their contributions have totaled [\\$57,760](#).

**Rep. Devin Nunes:** “The Democrats... say that to bring [down] the cost of drugs, we have to take back government control of prices. That we must sacrifice our world-leading innovation in treatments and cures to lower costs at the pharmacy counter for seniors.” [\[10/14/21\]](#)

**FACT CHECK:** Major drug companies often outsource research and development. A 2019 [analysis](#) from Stat found a majority of top-selling drugs from two of the largest drug companies -- Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson -- were discovered and developed by third parties, such as universities and academic centers. These findings suggest that “a reduction in pharmaceutical revenues would not have the supposed devastating impact on the level of biopharmaceutical innovation.”

**PHARMA INFLUENCE:** In the 2020 election cycle, Rep. Devin Nunes received [\\$121,283](#) in total contributions from the pharmaceutical/health products industry. He has received an additional [\\$16,722](#) for the 2022 election cycle so far.

**Sen. Tim Scott:** “From curing rare diseases to increasing life spans by many years, recent medical advancements have been nothing short of miraculous for seniors and other at-risk populations. Handing over drug pricing to the federal government would halt that positive momentum and put life saving medications further out of reach for too many Americans.” [\[10/1/21\]](#)

**FACT CHECK:** Time and again, drug companies hike the prices of drugs without any added benefit to patients. According to Patients for Affordable Drugs, a vial of brand name insulin [costs](#) about \$4 to make but costs [\\$270](#) and one capsule of the cancer drug Revlimid costs less than a dollar to make but sells for \$833.

**PHARMA INFLUENCE:** The pharmaceutical industry has donated [\\$270,773](#) to Sen. Tim Scott for the 2022 election cycle. In his career since 2009, Sen. Tim Scott has received [nearly \\$750,000](#) from the pharmaceutical industry.

## **Pharma and Their Front Groups Continue Campaign of Big Lies Against Lower Drug Prices**

Democrats in Congress reached a historic agreement to lower prescription drug prices for all Americans through the Build Back Better Act.

For 20 years, drug companies have benefited from a law that bans Medicare from negotiating lower prices for patients. As a result, Americans pay three times more for the same drugs as people do in other countries. Build Back Better will give Medicare the power to negotiate lower prices once and for all, and it will cap seniors' out-of-pocket drug costs, stop excessive price increases for existing medications, and limit insulin copays to \$35 per month for diabetics.

Even as Congress has landed on a deal, Big Pharma has continued to deploy its vast warchest – and a series of well-funded front groups – to mislead, distort and outright threaten patients in their effort to hold on to their staggering prices and profits.

Almost all of them are channeled through groups with patient-friendly names that have one thing in common: drug industry money or connections.

This updated report details how the many major ad campaigns currently running against prescription drug price reform are actually backed by pharmaceutical industry funds. The ads are paid for by the same people who profit by keeping the prices artificially high and protecting their monopoly while millions of American families cannot afford life saving medicines.

### **REVEALED: PHARMA'S CAMPAIGN TO STOP LOWER DRUG PRICES**

#### **Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)**

**PhRMA Is Spending Millions Misleading The American People.** In September, PhRMA launched a [7-figure ad buy](#) against drug price negotiation proposals moving through Congress. PhRMA is out with two [new advertising campaigns](#) intended to make Americans fear Medicare drug price negotiation by [claiming](#) politicians will decide what drugs patients can get. The ad, featuring Sue — a Type 1 diabetic, made such outrageous claims about restricting patients access to needed medications, the Washington Post gave it a '[Three Pinachios](#)' rating and said the ad was PhRMA's attempt to claim "there are provisions in the legislation that do not exist." In 2021, a CBO working paper estimated that if Medicare was empowered to negotiate drug prices, they would "fall between [57 percent and 75 percent](#), relative to current prices." [Factcheck.org](#) agrees that Medicare negotiation would not prevent beneficiaries from accessing medications and PhRMA's ads are an "inaccurate portrayal of recent legislation."

**PhRMA Cannot Be Trusted With Drug Pricing Reform.** PhRMA represents the nation's leading [biopharmaceutical](#) companies. Americans see through the fear tactics used by pharma industry trade groups, with [75 percent](#) of Americans reporting they do not trust the industry to fairly price prescription drugs.

**PhRMA Spent More Than \$20 Million On Lobbying In 2021 So Far.** According to OpenSecrets, PhRMA has spent [\\$22.9 million](#) on lobbying in 2021 so far. PhRMA is on track to break their 2019 lobbying spending record of \$29.3 million this year. According to research by Patients For Affordable Drugs Now, PhRMA and its front groups have spent at least [\\$26.5 million](#) on television and digital ads against Medicare drug price negotiation between July and November of this year.

### **American Action Network (AAN)**

**American Action Network Is Funneling Millions Into Misinformation Campaigns.** AAN is currently running a [\\$5 million](#) advertising campaign, claiming the recent budget resolution is “a socialist prescription drug plan that would limit patients’ access to lifesaving medications.” In reality, the resolution would allow Medicare to negotiate fair prescription drug prices, something [88 percent](#) of Americans strongly support. In 2019, AAN received \$4.5 million from PhRMA, the largest contribution made by the trade group that year.

**American Action Network Has Received Millions From A Pharmaceutical Trade Group.** AAN has a long history of accepting funds from the pharmaceutical industry. A year after the group’s formation, AAN took [\\$4.5 million](#) from PhRMA. This trend has continued, with AAN receiving [nearly \\$15 million](#) from PhRMA between 2016 and 2019.

### **Medicare Today**

**Medicare Today Is Not Telling The Whole Story.** Medicare Today launched an [advertising campaign](#), claiming that [92 percent](#) of seniors are “satisfied” with Medicare. What Medicare Today failed to mention is while seniors support the program, they are also strongly in favor of improving Medicare and lowering drug costs. The [majority of seniors](#) support allowing the government to negotiate prescription drug prices (82 percent), placing a limit on out-of-pocket drug costs (68 percent), and lowering the amount Medicare pays for drugs based on amounts in other countries (60 percent).

**Medicare Today Was Launched By Big Pharma Executives.** Medicare Today was launched in 2004 by the [Healthcare Leadership Council](#), a coalition of health care executives, which includes the pharmaceutical industry. Healthcare Leadership Council includes the drugmakers: Amgen, Biogen, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Johnson & Johnson, Merck, and Pfizer.

### **Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease**

**Partnership To Fight Chronic Disease Is Using Big Pharma's Tired Scare Tactics.** The Partnership To Fight Chronic Disease is running a [new advertising campaign](#) claiming drug price negotiation will stifle innovation and reduce patient access to lifesaving drugs. The CBO analyzed the impact of a decrease in pharmaceutical revenue by as much as \$1 trillion and found that it would only have a [modest](#) impact on drugs coming to market (impacting approximately eight of the 300 new drugs expected in the next decade). Only [10 percent](#) of drugs that have entered the market over the last 50 years have represented therapeutic advances, with [drugmakers making deliberate choices not to invest in research](#) and development, and instead focusing resources on obtaining patents on old drugs, in order to “extend patent protection, prolong monopoly pricing periods, and keep generic competitors off the market.”

**Partnership To Fight Chronic Disease Is Funded By Big Pharma.** It is no wonder why the Partnership To Fight Chronic Disease is working so hard to protect the bottom line of drugmakers — they are an [affiliate](#) of Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers of America, which [represents biopharmaceutical corporations](#). Over the past 10 years, the Partnership To Fight Chronic Disease has listed PhRMA officials as key employees on tax forms and despite running [multi-million ad campaigns](#), the organization has not reported fundraising costs since its founding in 2007.

### **Pharmaceutical Industry Labor-Management Association (PILMA)**

**PILMA Is Making False Claims That Medicare Price Negotiation Will Damage Innovation.** PILMA is running an [advertising campaign](#) claiming that Medicare price negotiations would harm innovation and make it harder for patients to access their medications. This is simply not true and fails to recognize that under our current system, [nearly one in three](#) Americans report not taking a medication as prescribed due to cost. A 2017 [report](#) from the National Academies of Medicine found, “drugs that are not affordable are of little value.”

**PILMA Cannot Be Trusted With Drug Pricing Reform.** PILMA is a coalition of [biopharmaceutical](#) companies and labor unions. Americans recognize that Big Pharma is putting profits over people, with [80 percent](#) of Americans reporting the pharmaceutical industry's profits as a “major factor” for the high cost of prescription drugs.

### **60 Plus Association**



**60 Plus Association Is Fighting Medicare Price Negotiation.** The CBO found Medicare drug negotiation would save patients more than [\\$150 billion](#) at the pharmacy counter, yet 60 Plus Association is running an [advertising campaign](#), attempting to sell Medicare negotiation as a ‘scam’. In reality, it is 60 Plus that has been deceiving the public. In 2016, the Koch Brother affiliated organization was [fined by the Federal Election Commission](#) after violating federal rules requiring they identify the source of funds earmarked for political expenditures. 60 Plus, along with two other Koch affiliated groups, consented to pay a total of more than \$200,000. The [New York Times](#) referred to the investigation as “a look...into the interlocking networks of political nonprofits on the right, through which vast sums of money flow each election cycle with little disclosure.”

In September 2021, 60 Plus released [another ad campaign](#) referring to the \$500 billion saved by the government from drug price negotiation as “cuts to Medicare.” KHN and Politifact agree that this is [misleading](#) since the \$500 billion would not be “swiped” by Democratic leaders, but would be used for reinvestment in Medicare hearing expansion.

**60 Plus Association Has Received Millions From The Drug Industry.** It is clear who has been holding the reins at 60 Plus. In 2002, 91 percent of its \$12 million revenue came from a single donor, which Public Citizen presumes to be [PhRMA](#). 60 Plus has also received money from [drugmakers](#) like Pfizer, Merck, and Wyeth–Ayerst.

### **One Nation**

**One Nation Is Burying the Lede.** One Nation is running a [new advertising campaign](#) claiming “good health care is hard enough to get” and that Medicare drug price negotiation would restrict access to lifesaving drugs. What One Nation fails to mention is one of the leading limitations to health care access is the soaring cost of prescription drugs. [29 percent](#) of Americans taking prescription drugs have reported not filling, halving, or skipping a needed prescription due to cost in the past year.

**A Big Pharma Lobbyist Sits On One Nation’s Board.** One Nation added [Ken Cole](#), former lobbyist for Pfizer and Chamber of Commerce board member, to their board in 2019. [Pfizer](#) and the [Chamber of Commerce](#) have spent a collective \$1 billion on lobbying over the last decade, including on efforts to kill legislation aimed at lowering the cost of prescription drug prices.

### **National Association Of Manufacturers**



**National Association Of Manufacturers Falsely Link Price Setting With Decreases In Innovation.** The National Association of Manufacturers released an [ad campaign](#) in early October falsely linking Medicare price negotiation with decreases in innovation for “life-saving cures and vaccines.” The [Harvard Business Review](#) found that even though Medicare negotiation would lead to 2 fewer drugs in the next decade and 23 fewer in the following decade, price setting would not lead to decreased innovation as many of these drugs would be modified versions of already existing drugs.

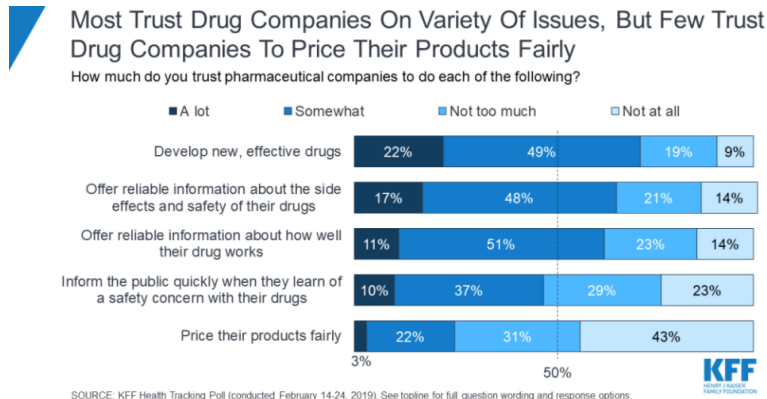
**PhRMA Is A Member of NAM.** NAM member organizations represent a plethora of [different industries](#) like textile manufacturers, paper products, and the meat industry. PhRMA is a member of NAM and has been able to successfully air ads attacking Medicare negotiation under the NAM branding.

## **POLLING ROUNDUP: Americans Don’t Trust Big Pharma To Play Fair**

In the coming days, Congress will pass the Build Back Better Act, historic legislation that will drive down health care costs and level the playing field for working families. Central to the Build Back Better Act is giving Medicare the power to negotiate for lower drug prices. Big Pharma has spent more than \$250 million to try to stop it, but the American people remain unswayed.

Polling clearly shows the American people do not trust the pharmaceutical industry. After years of putting profits over people and pushing life saving medications out of reach, Americans have had enough.

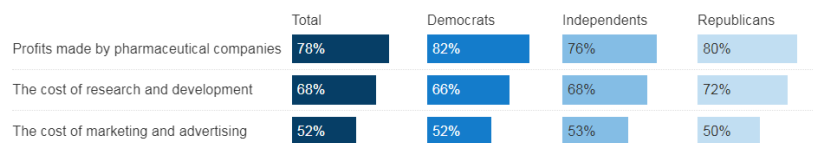
**Americans Do Not Trust Drug Makers To Set Fair Prices.** With skyrocketing price increases year after year, [three in four](#) Americans do not trust drug companies to price their products fairly.



**Americans Believe Big Pharma Puts Profits Over People.** The vast majority of Americans, from across the political spectrum, because the high cost of prescription drugs is caused by Big Pharma's greed. [78 percent](#) report pharmaceutical company's profits are a major factor contributing to the soaring cost of medications.

#### Similar Shares Across Parties Say Pharma Profits And The Cost of R&D Are Major Contributing Factors To Prescription Drug Costs

Percent who say the following is a **major factor** contributing to the price of prescription drugs:



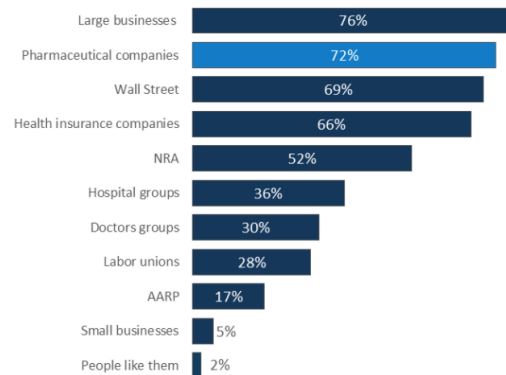
NOTE: See topline for full question wording.  
SOURCE: KFF Health Tracking Poll (May 18-25, 2021). • [Download image](#)

KFF

**Americans Believe Pharmaceutical Companies Have Too Much Influence.** [72 percent](#) of Americans say the pharmaceutical industry has too much influence over the federal government. In 2021 alone, Big Pharma has spent [nearly \\$263 million](#) on lobbying — devoting three lobbyists to each member of Congress.

## Pharmaceutical Companies Among the Top of the Public's List of Who Has Too Much Influence in Washington

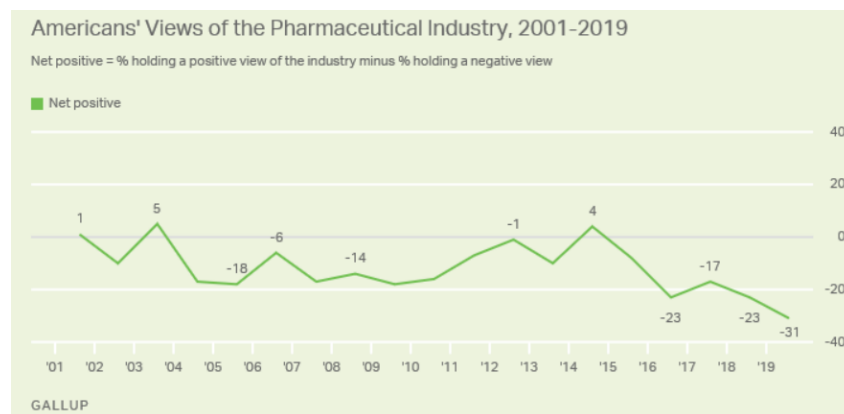
Percent who say that each of the following has too much influence in Washington:



NOTE: Some items asked of half samples.  
SOURCE: KFF Health Tracking Poll (conducted March 8-13, 2018)



**Americans Hold Overwhelming Negative Views Of The Pharmaceutical Industry.** A 2019 Gallup poll found the pharmaceutical industry to be “the [most poorly regarded industry](#) in Americans' eyes.” The critique of Big Pharma included their seemingly never ending price increases, massive lobbying influence, and role in the opioid crisis, proving distrust of the pharmaceutical industry is far reaching.



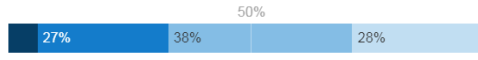
**Majority Of Americans Don't Buy Pharma's Argument.** [Nearly seven in 10 Americans](#) are not convinced by the pharmaceutical industry's argument that drug price negotiation will harm innovation.

## One-Third Find Argument Against Drug Negotiations Convincing, Majority Say Argument In Favor Is Convincing

How convincing do you find each of the following arguments regarding allowing the federal government to negotiate with drug companies to get a lower price on prescription drugs for people with Medicare and private insurance?

■ Very convincing ■ Somewhat convincing ■ Not too convincing ■ Not at all convincing

Those opposed say it would have the government too involved and will lead to fewer new drugs being available in the future



Those in favor say negotiation is needed because Americans pay higher prices than people in other countries, many can't afford their prescriptions, and drug company profits are too high



NOTE: See topline for full question wording.

SOURCE: KFF Health Tracking Poll (Sept. 23-Oct. 4, 2021) • PNG

KFF

## SHOT/CHASERS: No Wonder the American People Hate Drug Companies

New reports [indicate](#) big drug companies are fighting to weaken the parts of the Build Back Better Act that deliver relief to families and give Medicare the power to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices. As Big Pharma continues its fight against Medicare negotiation, here are four big reasons why America's families reject drug companies' claims and are demanding action now:

### HIGH PRICES

**SHOT: Drug Companies Hiked The Prices Of Nearly 1,000 Drugs In January.** Drug companies started 2021 by hiking the prices of [hundreds of drugs](#). In January of 2021, more than [900](#) brand name drugs experienced price increases, the highest in over a decade. GoodRX found the increases to be the "[largest number of increases in years.](#)"

**CHASER: Americans Don't Trust Pharmaceutical Companies On Pricing.** [Three in four](#) Americans do not trust drug companies to price their products fairly, with the vast majority of Americans identifying the high cost of prescription drugs to be the result of Big Pharma's greed. [78 percent](#) report pharmaceutical company's profits are a major factor contributing to the soaring cost of medications.

### POWER & INFLUENCE

**SHOT: Pharmaceutical Industry Spent Over \$250 Million Trying To Kill Medicare Negotiation.** In 2021 alone, Big Pharma has spent nearly [\\$263 million](#) on lobbying — devoting three lobbyists to each member of congress.

**CHASER: Americans Dislike Pharma's Influence In Washington.** [72 percent](#) of Americans say the pharmaceutical industry has too much influence over the federal government.

### **INNOVATION LIES**

**SHOT: Drug Companies' Stock Buybacks And Dividends Exceed R&D Spending.** Between 2016 and 2020, 14 leading drugmakers spent [\\$577 billion](#) on stock buybacks and dividends—\$56 billion more than what was invested in research and development over the same period. One company, Amgen, spent nearly six times more on executive pay, buybacks, and dividends than it did on research and development in 2018.

**CHASER: Majority Of Americans Don't Buy Pharma's Innovation Argument.** Roughly [70 percent](#) of Americans are not convinced by the pharmaceutical industry's argument that drug price negotiation will harm its ability to fund research and development.

### **SKY-HIGH PROFITS**

**SHOT: Drug Companies Enjoy The Highest Profits Of Major Industry.** Pharmaceutical companies experience profit margins nearly [three times](#) the average for the S&P 500. Between 2000 and 2018, 35 large drug companies raked in a combined revenue of [\\$11.5 trillion](#) with a gross profit of \$8.6 trillion -- far more than other large companies. Drug companies could lose [\\$1 trillion](#) in sales and still be the most profitable industry.

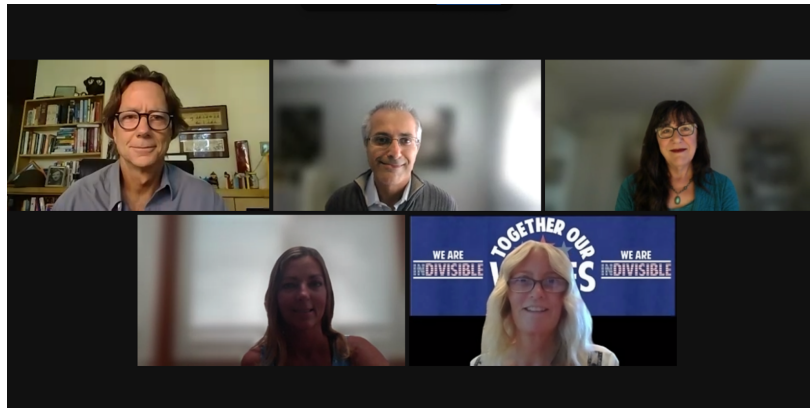
**CHASER: Americans Hold Overwhelming Negative Views Of The Pharmaceutical Industry.** A 2019 Gallup poll found the pharmaceutical industry to be “the [most poorly regarded industry](#) in Americans' eyes.” The critique of Big Pharma included their seemingly never ending price increases, massive lobbying influence, and role in the opioid crisis, proving distrust of the pharmaceutical industry is far reaching.

## **In The States**

### **CALIFORNIA**

**November 11 — Build Back Better/Medicare Negotiations Virtual Event with a Local Nurse, Advocates, and CA-52 Constituents:** San Diegan Brian Alexander, award-winning author and journalist, joined ICU Nurse Rachelle Compton and local advocates from CA-52 including Tama Becker-Varano, Angela Benson (Indivisible) and Maz Hadaegh (President of the Iranian

American Democrats of San Diego) alongside Protect Our Care California to call on Rep. Scott Peters to pass the Build Back Better Act immediately. More specifically, they called on Rep. Peters to stop watering down the prescription drug portion of the legislation and listen to his constituents, who overwhelmingly support HR3 — the original measure proposed in Build Back Better. Activists and residents of Peters' district are disappointed as he continues to ignore their calls to support giving Medicare the power to negotiate prescription drug prices. **Award-winning author and journalist Brian Alexander**, opened the discussion by poking holes in Big Pharma's argument that policies like HR3 will hurt research and development of new drugs. He said "I've never met a single scientist who said that if they received a certain amount of money they would stop their research and development. Yes, they want to be compensated, but it's really about doing the best science and making the discoveries that are going to benefit Americans and people all over the world." You can watch the event [here](#).



## MAINE

**November 10 — Build Back Better Health Care Provisions Virtual Event with Sen. President Troy Jackson, Rep. Anne Perry, Protect Our Care, Maine Consumers for Affordable Health Care, and Advocates:** Lawmakers, advocates and Maine constituents joined Protect Our Care Maine to call on Congress to pass the Build Back Better Act legislation immediately. Advocates will also discuss the major health care provisions in the Build Back Better Act — including giving Medicare the power to negotiate lower drug prices, expanding Medicaid to provide health coverage for four million Americans in the Medicaid coverage gap, and much more — to lower costs and improve access to health care. "The Build Back Better Act will drive down health care costs and level the playing field for working families," **said Protect Our Care Executive Director Brad Woodhouse.** "Mainers are counting on President Biden and the Democrats in Congress to deliver on their promises to reduce health care disparities, create healthier communities, and strengthen the economy by passing Build Back Better's health care measures. It's a critical step towards building a future where health care is a right, not a privilege." **You can watch the event [here](#).**

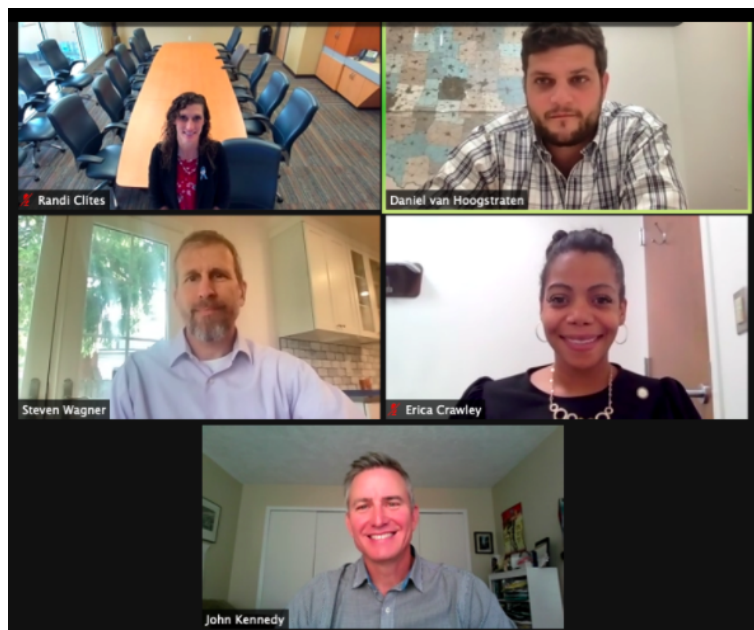


## OHIO

**November 10 — Build Back Better Event with Franklin County Commissioner Erica Crawley, UHCAN Ohio, Insulin for All Ohio, and Patient Advocates:** Franklin County Commissioner Erica Crawley joined Ohio health care advocates to call on Congress to pass the Build Back Better Act immediately. Advocates discussed the major health care provisions in the legislation — including giving Medicare the power to negotiate lower drug prices, lowering health care



premiums, dramatically improving maternal and infant health, and more — to lower costs and improve access to health care. “Diabetics cannot afford to wait. Our impatience is driven by the hard truth that more time means that more diabetics are going to have to make a choice that nobody should ever have to make: which is, do I spend the money that I have on food, or do I spend my money on getting the proper dosage of insulin? That’s all because of the outrageous cost of this little tiny vial of life that we call insulin,” said **John Kennedy, a type 1 diabetic and volunteer with Insulin for All Ohio**. “Insulin is our oxygen, without it, we die. The bottom line is, Build Back Better will save lives and we need Congress to act now.” You can watch the event [here](#).



- [WEWS \(ABC\)](#): Local Call to Pass Build Back Better Act
- [Statehouse News Bureau](#): What would Ohio get out of the Build Back Better Act?
- [WCBE \(NPR\)](#): "Build Back Better" Could Bring Ohio Pre-K And Senior Health Care
- [WOUB \(NPR\)](#): What would Ohio get out of the Build Back Better Act?

### CLIPS

- [Asbury Park Press](#): NJ Democrats OK Medicare drug price negotiations, but will \$1.85T bill pass at all?
- [WEWS \(ABC\)](#): Local Call to Pass Build Back Better Act
- [Statehouse News Bureau](#): What would Ohio get out of the Build Back Better Act?
- [WCBE \(NPR\)](#): "Build Back Better" Could Bring Ohio Pre-K And Senior Health Care

- [WOUB \(NPR\)](#): What would Ohio get out of the Build Back Better Act?
- [NBC News Center Maine \(Video\)](#): Maine eldercare advocates urging support for Build Back Better plan

## Local Headlines

### Arizona

- AP: [Arizona Reports 3,000-Plus Covid Cases For 4th Day In A Row](#)

### California

- Los Angeles Times: [‘Winter Is Coming,’ Gov. Newsom Warns As California’s Covid Threat Persists](#)
- NBC News: [These Southern California Groups Are Fighting To Close Latino Vaccination Gaps](#)
- NPR: [All Adults Can Get A Covid Vaccine Booster In California Not Just Those CDC Listed](#)
- Wall Street Journal: [California Scrutinizes Doctors As Patients Seek Exemptions From School Covid-19 Vaccine Mandate](#)
- Washington Post: [When It Comes To Student Vaccine Mandates, California Is Leading The Way](#)

### Colorado

- New York Times: [Colorado’s Governor Says High Risk To The Virus Makes All Adults Eligible For Boosters](#)

### Florida

- Politico: [Florida Schools Abandon Mask Mandates](#)

### Georgia

- The Atlanta Journal-Constitution: [Georgia’s Uninsured Could Get Coverage Under Biden Proposal](#)

### Idaho

- Bloomberg: [Idaho Confirms State’s First Covid-19 Child Death, An Infant](#)

### Kansas

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