

RUNAWAY

AFFORDABLE PRICES FOR REAL CURES



What Others Are Saying About High-Priced Drugs

“While there are life-saving advances in some specialty drugs, it is critical that clinical guidelines for these drugs look at whether lower cost conventional strategies should be considered first. Californians simply can’t continue to afford the rising costs of specialty drugs.”

**– Ann Boynton, Deputy Executive Officer
CalPERS Benefits Programs, Policy and Planning**

“No budget – public or private – can sustain drugmakers’ exorbitant prices, and this latest report is case in point. Improving patient access to these lifesaving medications will require pharmaceutical companies to confront that reality and work with all stakeholders to advance a sustainable pricing solution.”

– Campaign for Sustainable Rx Pricing

“This study is further evidence that we simply do not have the resources to pay for these treatments at their current prices. Since hepatitis C disproportionately affects the Medicaid population, state Medicaid programs like California’s Medi-Cal will be hardest hit. This inability of states to pay as a result of pharmaceutical companies’ pricing model is a barrier to eradicating hep C. Imagine if Jonas Salk did this for the polio vaccine -- the iron lung would not be a thing of the past. It boils down to this: Are these treatments really miracle cures if no one can afford access to them?”

**– Jeff Myers, President and CEO
Medicaid Health Plans of America**

“High-cost medications have a rippling effect on our economy, and significant hiring costs for California’s businesses result in reduced job creation. Californians have a right to know why specialty drug costs are set so high.”

**– Ruben Gonzalez, Senior Vice President of Public Policy & Political Affairs
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce**

“Never before has a drug been priced this high to treat a patient population this large, and the resulting costs will be unsustainable for our country.”

**– Steve Miller, Chief Medical Officer
Express Scripts**

“If we don't get some sanity in these drug prices, more people will die from cancer because no one will be able to afford them.”

– **Leonard Saltz, Chief of Gastrointestinal Oncology**
New York's Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

“Premiums reflect the rising cost of providing care to individuals and families, and the explosion in prescription and specialty drug prices is a significant factor.”

– **Clare Krusing, Spokeswoman**
America's Health Insurance Plans

“We've heard stories of people who've emptied their retirement savings to cover their drug needs. It's a really frightening, Wild West situation for people who need these specialty drugs.”

– **Betsy Imholz, Special Projects Director**
Consumers Union

“What we've heard for years is that drug pricing is commensurate with costs and that very may well be the case. But we've had no transparency about the cost between R&D and the prices charged. Hopefully, this will reduce prices in the long run. But just having the conversation is important. But if your costs are related to your prices, provide the information to help us understand that.”

– **David Chiu**
California State Assemblyman

“The cost of the drugs is now making them unattainable for the majority of patients, so whether it's a private insurance company, or a public payer, very few payers will be able to cover the cost of all of the patients in our entire country.”

– **Rena Fox, M.D., Internist and Hepatitis Specialist**
University of California at San Francisco

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