



[RunawayRx](#), a project of the California Association of Health Plans, highlights noteworthy articles and information on the acceleration of prescription drug pricing.

Once again, Congress is grilling a pharmaceutical CEO in response to an egregious price hike on a decades-old, life-saving medication. This time, Mylan CEO Heather Bresch was asked to provide a simple level of transparency about the rationale behind raising the price of EpiPens by more than 500 percent. And once again, the answers came up short. State and national efforts would require drugmakers to provide such information in a timely and uniform manner, thereby leveling the playing field and avoiding ad hoc investigations to address rising drug costs.

NBC NEWS

[Lawmakers Accuse Mylan CEO of 'Rope-a-Doping' on EpiPen Prices](#)

By Ben Popken | September 21, 2016

"I talked in my opening statement about rope-a-doping," said Representative Elijah Cummings of Maryland, the ranking Democrat on the committee. "I feel like you're not giving me answers. You knew what this hearing was about."

"He continued to slam Bresch, saying Mylan had 'jacked up the price of a life-saving product for no discernible reason other than to get filthy rich at expense of our constituents.'"

"This is a crock don't try to convince me that you are doing us a favor," said [Sen. Buddy Carter (R-GA)], cutting her off. "This is a shell game."

BUSINESS INSIDER

['YOU ASKED FOR IT' — Congress railed on the maker of EpiPen](#)

By Linette Lopez | September 21, 2016

"Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD) 'accused the company of using a 'simple but corrupt business model' to enrich themselves in the same manner as Martin Shkreli of Turing Pharmaceuticals and executives at Valeant Pharmaceuticals."

"He scoffed at Mylan's promise to increase patient assistance programs."

"We've heard that one before," he said. "They never ever lower their prices..."

"Cummings said he's not sure he wants an apology from Mylan as much as he wants solutions."

Los Angeles Times

[Mylan CEO blames rising cost of the EpiPen on 'opaque' industry pricing](#)

By Melody Peterson | September 21, 2016

"Lawmakers blasted the chief executive of the maker of EpiPens at a House hearing Wednesday, saying the company's price hikes of more than 500% were stopping families from keeping their children safe..."

"Bresch said there was a 'misconception' about how much the company was profiting from the device. And she blamed the controversy on the system of pricing in the pharmaceutical industry, which she called 'opaque and frustrating.'"

"Mylan is facing a myriad of investigations into its pricing and sales practices. Just this week, Senate Republicans called for a probe of whether Mylan had received tens of millions of dollars of excessive rebates from the federal Medicaid program. And the Republican attorney general in Bresch's home state of West Virginia asked a court Tuesday to enforce a subpoena against Mylan as part of his ongoing probe 'into the skyrocketing price of its EpiPen.'"

"Mylan has attempted to mollify angry consumers by offering more financial aid to patients... But critics point out that the co-pay coupons are a tactic used throughout the pharmaceutical industry to keep prices high. The coupons insulate patients from the price hikes, but insurance companies, employers and taxpayers must still pay more for the rest of the bill for the drug."

For more information on the California Association of Health Plans' RunawayRx project, visit [RunawayRx.org](#) or [@Runaway Rx](#).