

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–1306

July 17, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
House Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-107 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Clyburn
House Majority Whip
U.S. House of Representatives
H-329 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ben Ray Luján
Assistant Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-132 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Hoyer, Whip Clyburn, and Assistant Speaker Luján:

As Members of the New Democrat Coalition Healthcare Task Force, we were pleased to have the opportunity to vote on vital healthcare legislation within the first 100 days of the 116th Congress.

While we support efforts to advance legislation to stabilize and expand on the Affordable Care Act (ACA), we are all too aware of the strong desire from our constituents for us to also take action on the rising costs of prescription drugs. We are asking that you consider bringing the bipartisan drug pricing bills included in H.R. 987 to the floor in a standalone package for a vote during the week of July 22nd when other healthcare measures are to be considered.

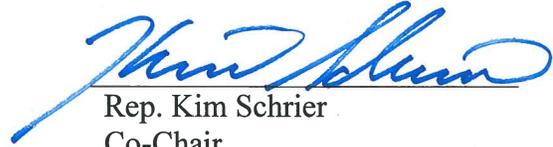
Each of the drug pricing bills in H.R. 987 had bipartisan support when introduced, as well as through the Committee process. While we were optimistic our Republican colleagues would support commonsense fixes to strengthen the ACA, this comprehensive package was passed out of the House with only Democratic support. Consequently, our colleagues in the Senate have yet to vote on these noncontroversial drug pricing measures and send them to the President for enactment.

The rising cost of prescription drugs remains of paramount concern to all Members, irrespective of political affiliation. There are families in every single congressional district struggling to pay for their prescription drugs. As such, this challenge calls for a unified approach. Respectfully, we urge leadership to bring these bipartisan measures to the floor and, in doing so, reiterate our commitment to tackling the rising cost of prescription drugs in a bipartisan manner before the August recess.

Sincerely,



Rep. Kurt Schrader
Co-Chair
NDC Health Care Task Force



Rep. Kim Schrier
Co-Chair
NDC Health Care Task Force



Rep. Angie Craig
Co-Chair
NDC Health Care Task Force



Rep. Greg Stanton
Co-Chair
NDC Health Care Task Force



Rep. Derek Kilmer
Chair
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Suzan DelBene
Vice Chair
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Terri Sewell
Vice Chair
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Ami Bera
Leadership Member
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Chrissy Houlahan
Freshman Leadership Rep
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Lizzie Fletcher
Member
NDC Health Care Task Force



Rep. Donna Shalala
Member
NDC Health Care Task Force



Rep. Scott H. Peters
Vice Chair
New Democrat Coalition