



Adopted November 13, 2018
Amended July 27, 2022
Amended April 28, 2026

Resolution Medicare Prescription Drug Negotiations

Whereas Americans pay the highest drug prices in the world; and

Whereas according to a report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office, Americans pay significantly more for many brand-name prescription drugs than people in other developed countries, often two to four times higher prices than those in countries such as Canada, France, and Australia; and

Whereas prescription drug prices in the United States have continued to rise over time, frequently outpacing general inflation and placing growing financial pressure on older Americans and their families; and

Whereas many seniors are forced to choose between purchasing life-saving prescription medications and paying for basic necessities such as food, housing, and utilities; and

Whereas studies have found that roughly one in four

adults over the age of 65 report not taking one or more prescription medication as prescribed because of the cost; and

Whereas more than 8.5 million Americans rely on insulin to manage diabetes, and prior to recent reforms, many patients faced annual out-of-pocket costs in the thousands of dollars for this life-saving medication; and

Whereas to help reverse the pharmaceutical industry's stranglehold on our health care system, on August 16, 2022, President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act into law, and the law has brought tremendous benefits and lower prescription drug prices for millions of Medicare beneficiaries; and

Whereas Medicare beneficiaries who rely on insulin now benefit from a monthly copayment cap of no more than \$35 for a one-month supply of insulin under Medicare Part D and Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug plans, which provides substantial relief to more than 3.3 million Medicare beneficiaries who depend on insulin to manage diabetes; and

Whereas all vaccines recommended for adults by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices are now available to Medicare beneficiaries with no out-of-pocket cost under Medicare Part D and Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug plans, enabling millions of seniors to receive life-saving immunizations such as the shingles

vaccine without financial barriers; and

Whereas drug manufacturers that raise the price of certain prescription drugs covered by Medicare faster than the rate of inflation are now required to pay rebates to the Medicare program, discouraging excessive price increases and helping protect seniors from rapidly rising prescription drug costs; and

Whereas the federal government has begun negotiating the prices of certain high-cost prescription drugs covered by Medicare, with negotiated prices for the first 10 drugs taking effect in 2026, additional drugs to follow in subsequent years, and the program expanding to allow negotiation of up to 20 drugs annually beginning in 2029, helping to lower costs for Medicare beneficiaries and strengthen the long-term sustainability of the Medicare program; and

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alliance for Retired Americans supports the continuing implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act, PL 117-169, and opposes efforts to exempt drugs from the law as well as amending it to slow continuing price negotiations.