

Dear Maine Delegation,

We, the undersigned, represent a diverse group of Maine patient advocates, coming together to express concerns over HR 3, the drug pricing bill recently reintroduced in the US House of Representatives.

Specifically, we are opposed to the international price referencing provision included in the bill that relies on value-based metrics that would unfairly limit access to medicines for our state's most vulnerable citizens – the elderly and patients with chronic and rare diseases. If signed into law, HR 3 would allow the government to set prices for medicines based on what foreign countries pay. The referenced countries, six in total, often base prices on value assessments that discriminate against vulnerable patient populations. Patients in countries with these price-setting policies often face restricted access to treatment options and delayed access to new medicine. For example, there is an 18-month average lag between the time cancer drugs are available in the U.S. and availability in other developed countries.

As a rural state and a state with the highest percentage of seniors in the country, many Mainers already face a number of barriers when trying to access health care. Now is not the time to impose additional burdens, like those included in this legislation, on already struggling Mainers.

Finally, we are also concerned that HR 3 may jeopardize the development of future medical innovations. Research into complex diseases is expensive and carries substantial risk. HR 3 could erode the incentives necessary to fund such costly and risky research - further delaying the development of life-saving cures and cutting-edge treatments. One of the lessons we've learned from the pandemic is that a strong commitment to innovation and science can lead to miraculous medical breakthroughs. Our Maine patients are waiting and hoping for new medical advancements that could improve their quality of life. We urge you to reject policies that may prevent important and necessary medical research and development from going forward.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Sincerely,

Rare New England  
Lupus Foundation New England  
Free ME from Lung Cancer  
The Purple Iris Foundation

