

Rep. John Katko

Aug. 15, 2019

440 South Warren St. - Suite 711  
Syracuse, NY 13202

Dear Congressman Katko:

Several members of our local AARP Legislative Advocacy Team are meeting today with Jim Keib. We want to discuss with him, and pass on to you, concerns of many of our AARP members throughout your Congressional District. Prescription Drug Prices and many related difficulties obtaining necessary drugs are causing increasing difficulties for our members.

We are enclosing summaries of some of these difficulties in the enclosed materials. It should be noted that in Onondaga County along there are over 70,000 national AARP members. Thus far this summer, almost 3500 of these members have signed petitions protesting these price problems. We have heard stories from many of these members on this issue, thus our (and their) concerns for our meeting today.

The stories we continue to encounter involved the following items:

1. 1. Changes to formularies during the calendar year.
2. 2. Often significant increases in prices during the calendar year, many with little prior notice.
3. (This often leads to questions per how to afford drugs OR food, even for people who do not
4. qualify for special government programs.
- 5.3. Changes to drug ingredients &/or individual drug packaging (colors, type of package, others) that
6. seek extensions to patent protections for companies (often questionable).
7. [Known to many as "Pay for Delay"!] ]
- 8.4. Difficulties in following confusing and often very technical rules/paperwork for drug plans
9. or special assistance.

We really need some limits/caps on large price increases; limits on the manipulation of patents (ie: end the changes to colors of capsules that extends patents; buying off generic competition and using the stock market to boost prices - by venture investors) and most important, change the law to allow the Secretary of Health & Human Services to negotiate better prices for drugs!

We believe the enclosed materials can help assist you to explore the Price Gouging that is occurring, as well as possibilities for positive changes (ie: the CREATES Act, etc.).

Thank you for these meetings (this past year) with your staff on these critical issues. I would very much like to hear your position on the large issue of Drug Pricing (both Prescription and Generic) and on what you would be willing to support to meet these issues.

Robert O'Connor,  
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201 Pembroke Dr.  
Fayetteville, NY 13066      enc. (including petitions: 3,650)