

September 26, 2016

The Honorable John McCain  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sherrod Brown  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator McCain, Senator Brown & Congresswoman Schakowsky:

We are pleased to endorse your bipartisan, bicameral legislation, “The Price Relief, Innovation, and Competition for Essential Drugs (PRICED) Act,” which would balance the need for encouraging the development of innovative therapies with drug-pricing relief for working families, seniors, and private and public payers. While current law provides biologic manufacturers with 12 years of market exclusivity, your legislation would reasonably reduce this exclusivity period to 7 years, promote more competition, and expand the drug choices available to consumers.

The rising of cost of prescription drugs – particularly high-cost biologics – threatens to overwhelm the health care system. According to Express Scripts, in 2014, more than one-half million Americans spent \$50,000 or more per year on prescription drugs. The number of Americans spending more than \$100,000 per year on prescription drugs tripled in one year to 139,000 patients. For patients whose prescription drug costs exceeded \$100,000 per year, plan sponsors paid about 98 percent of the cost. This rate of spending and growth is simply not sustainable. Urgent action is needed and your legislation can play an important part in stemming the tide of rising prescription drug costs.

Thank you for your leadership in seeking to generate more competition in the pharmaceutical marketplace. We look forward to working with you to enact the PRICED Act and to make innovative, high-quality prescription drugs more affordable for all Americans.

Sincerely,

J.B. Hunt Transport, Inc.  
Portico Benefit Services  
UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust  
The Teachers’ Retirement System of Kentucky  
Public Sector Health Care Roundtable  
Carpenter Funds of Northern California  
Ohio Public Employees Retirement System  
Express Scripts