5 REASONS
WHY INTERNATIONAL REFERENCE PRICING IS A SCAM FOR SENIORS

There's no question that Congress needs to address the high costs of healthcare. But policies that rely on international reference pricing to provide seniors “the same low prices” for prescription medications available in other countries will harm patients.

HERE’S HOW:

1. No reference pricing proposal has shown how it would reduce seniors’ out-of-pocket costs at the pharmacy counter.

2. Reference pricing in many foreign countries has resulted in treatment delays and higher mortality rates for chronic diseases, such as cancer.

3. International reference pricing imports discriminatory assessments that use the quality-adjusted life year (QALY), which assigns values to patients with different conditions. Patients who are sicker, older, or disabled are assigned lower values.

4. In 2020, the National Council on Disability called on the Trump Administration to rescind reference pricing proposals due to their reliance on these discriminatory metrics of value.

5. Additionally, the 2020 DNC platform opposed the use of QALYs in coverage determinations. Support for international reference pricing would reverse this position and harm people with disabilities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately ravaged America’s seniors. It’s time for Congress to pass legislation that caps and smooths Medicare Part D out-of-pocket costs. These reforms are not just the right thing to do but a critical need that cannot wait.

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