The high cost of Rx drugs is unsustainable.

High prices strain the entire health care system, directly impacting premiums and making drugs unaffordable.

Rx drug expenditures are rising - and are projected to continue to rise faster than overall health spending. HHS previously estimated that Rx drug spending in the U.S. totaled $457 billion in 2015, or 16.7% of overall personal health care services.

Without action, the cost of Rx drugs will continue to rise unchecked – further straining the health care system, burdening patients who will pay more and get less for their health care dollar.

Spending on specialty drugs is rising faster than spending on other drugs. Enbrel (to treat Rheumatoid Arthritis) costs $4k for a 30-day supply, an 80% increase since 2013. The cost of “first-generation” Multiple Sclerosis drugs tops $60k/year, up from $8-$11k when the drugs were first released.

Americans want action to ensure access to affordable medications. A recent POLITICO-Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health poll indicates that 40% of people cited drug costs as the top priority out of nine issues.

Sources:
The time to act is now.

Health plans are managing Rx drug costs to keep premiums down and drugs accessible. But it’s not enough. We need Congress to help.

The *CREATE Act* can lower Rx drug costs by removing barriers to competition.

- **Restricts Anticompetitive Practices** - Prohibits manufacturers from interfering with eligible generic and biosimilar product developers’ access to products needed for testing.

- **Addresses Public Health Safety Concerns** – Ensures that companies seeking access to product samples have safety protections in place.

- **Eliminates Red Tape** – Establishes an FDA-approved process for a potential generic competitor to receive brand product for clinical testing.

The *FAIR Drug Pricing Act* increases transparency about planned price increases.

- **Requires Disclosure** – Drug makers must notify HHS before they increase prices by more than 10% over one year for drugs costing $100+.

- **Improves Accountability** – Requires drug makers provide a reason for price increases including manufacturing costs, R&D, marketing and profits.

- **No Pricing Controls** - The bill does not prohibit price increases but increases transparency by making non-confidential information public–for the first time giving taxpayers notice of price increases.