



December 10, 2019

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: H.R. 3, the Lower Prescription Drug Costs Now Act

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

As a representative of the 28 million small businesses in America, Small Business Majority writes today urging Congress to pass H.R. 3, the Lower Prescription Drug Costs Now Act. Addressing the high cost of prescription drugs will help bring more stability to the pricing of health coverage in the marketplaces, which is beneficial to small employers, health insurers and the healthcare system overall.

The U.S. has made great gains in helping more self-employed entrepreneurs, small business owners and their workers gain comprehensive health insurance, with 5.7 million solo entrepreneurs and small business employees enrolled in the marketplaces. However, in order to continue this progress, we must address affordability and underlying costs that impact the price of coverage.

It's no secret that an increase in prescription drug prices is a major contributor to our nation's healthcare costs. For example, insulin costs nearly doubled per patient during 2012 to 2016. What's more, expensive specialty drugs account for a mere 1% of prescriptions, but 31% of drug spending overall.

This issue is harming small employers as they respond to these increases in pharmaceutical prices. Indeed, our [national scientific opinion polling](#) found more than 8 in 10 small business owners say their prescription drug copays have increased in recent years, and they're being forced to manage these increasing costs by either shifting some of the higher costs to their employees or absorbing the higher costs themselves. It should come as no surprise then that a vast 88% of small business owners believe prescription drug prices are too high.

Ensuring the passage of H.R. 3 will help address this by allowing the Department of Health and Human Services to negotiate pricing on up to 250 drugs per year, and making lower drug prices negotiated by Medicare available to all Americans, among other measures. We know solutions like these are strongly supported by small business owners. Our polling found 85% of small business owners believe the federal government should be able to negotiate with drug companies to secure lower prices on prescription drugs for people on Medicare. An additional 90% believe prescription drugs that are developed with taxpayer dollars should be made affordable to every American.

We strongly urge Congress to pass this legislation and help small businesses that continue to struggle with healthcare costs and prescription drug prices. Addressing rising prescription drug prices will benefit our nation's small businesses and our healthcare system overall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Arensmeyer".

John C. Arensmeyer
Founder & CEO