June 5, 2019

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky (D-IL)  The Honorable Francis Rooney (R-FL)
U.S. House of Representatives  U.S. House of Representatives
2367 Rayburn HOB  120 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515  Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Schakowsky and Representative Rooney:

The American Academy of Dermatology Association (Academy), which represents more than 13,800 members nationwide, is pleased to offer its support for H.R. 2269, the “Fair Accountability & Innovative Research (FAIR) Drug Pricing Act,” which would require pharmaceutical manufacturers to publicly justify large price increases of physician- and hospital-administered drugs if they exceed certain thresholds. Dermatologists diagnose and treat more than 3,000 diseases, including skin cancer, psoriasis, immunologic diseases and many genetic disorders. One in four Americans suffers from a skin disease.

Ongoing significant price fluctuations of drugs make it increasingly difficult for dermatologists to prescribe the most affordable and effective treatment for patients. To protect patients against large price spikes, the AADA supports requiring pharmaceutical manufacturers to provide public notice before increasing the price of any drug (generic, brand or specialty) by 10% or more each year or per course of treatment and provide the justification for the price. We appreciate and understand that H.R. 2269 is one step in a comprehensive effort to help make medications more affordable for the average American. Dermatologists are committed to providing the most effective and cost-efficient care and therapies to their patients, including those suffering from chronic, disabling conditions that interfere with activities of daily life, and have a substantial impact on their mental health and personal well-being.

Dermatology drugs have been disproportionately impacted by rising drug prices. A Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology (JAAD) study of 51 generic topical dermatologic medications found that between 2005 and 2016, mean prices increased by 273% while inflation only increased by 23%, with the greatest price change increased by 2529% for nystatin-triamcinolone acetonide cream to treat fungal skin infections.\(^1\) Another JAAD study found similarly dramatic price increases for brand name

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\(^1\) Increased topical generic prices by manufacturers. Behul D. Bhatt, MD, MBA, Birju D. Bhatt, MD, James T. Dorrian, MD and Beth N. McLellan, MD. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. March 12, 2018. [https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaad.2018.03.004](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaad.2018.03.004)
dermatologic drugs surveyed between 2009 and 2015. Of the 19 brand drugs analyzed, the retail prices of 7 drugs more than quadrupled during this period, including 50 capsules of Oxsoralen-Ultra, used to treat psoriasis, that rose from $1227.32 to $5204.31. When drugs become cost-prohibitive for patients, they often go without. Access to affordable medication for these conditions is not only medically necessary, it is life-changing, and often life-saving.

Preserving and improving patients’ access to affordable treatments and transparency in drug pricing is a top priority for the Academy. We appreciate your leadership in championing important patient access issues. Please feel free to contact Christine O’Connor, the Academy’s Associate Director, Congressional Policy at coconnor@aad.org or (202) 609-6330 if you have any questions or if we can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

George J. Hruza, MD MBA FAAD
President, American Academy of Dermatology Association

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