

Attn: Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray

ID: LFG-2015-CHELP-0016

Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

428 Senate Dirksen Office Building,

Washington, DC 20510

Sent via: Mail

November 1st, 2015

Re: Request for an investigation into Turning Pharmaceuticals and a request for an investigation as to whether or not the federal government needs to regulate the pricing of pharmaceutical products

Chairman Lamar Alexander and Ranking Member Patty Murray,

My name is Isaiah X. Smith and I am writing you this letter for the purpose of officially requesting the United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions to start an investigation into Turning Pharmaceuticals and in regards to the lack of price regulations on pharmaceutical products. I urge you to read this letter and to respond appropriately to this letter. All information listed in this letter is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I. General information as to Turning Pharmaceuticals and the “Daraprim” medicament

You may have already heard from legitimate news sources that Turning Pharmaceuticals has raised the price of “Daraprim” by 5,000 percent from its original price. The Daraprim medicament is used by individuals to remedy protozoal infections. Particularly Daraprim is often used to treat Toxoplasma gondii infections that are in HIV/AIDS patients. Mr. Martin Shkreli (the Chief Executive Officer of Turning Pharmaceuticals) made sure that his company paid millions of dollars for the rights of the Daraprim drug. Prior to Turning Pharmaceuticals buying the rights to the aforementioned drug, the price for Daraprim was \$13.50. However the price had risen to \$750 per tablet. There is no legit justification as to the need for the aforementioned drug to have that price hike.

The Daraprim medicament is extremely important for Americans and visitors in the United States to have for a various number of reasons. However due to the extreme price hike, hospitals and pharmacies are not able to stock that drug. It has been calculated that due to the price hike that a yearlong treatment plan involving the Daraprim drug will cost approximately \$336,000 for individuals who weigh less than 132 pounds, and approximately \$634,500 for individuals who weigh more than 132 pounds. So basically if Medicaid and Medicare covered the costs of that drug, that would be coming out of the pockets of the taxpayers and we would most likely be paying more taxes towards the costs of that and other medicaments that have experienced a price hike. Medicaid and Medicare are necessary government programs and this letter is in no way attacking those two necessary and needed government programs.

The contact information as to Turning Pharmaceuticals is as follows:

Turning Pharmaceuticals LLC
1177 Avenue of the Americas, 39th Floor
New York, NY 10036
Tel: 1.646.356.5577
www.turingpharma.com

II. Establishing price regulations on pharmaceutical products is absolutely needed

Greed is very prevalent among the pharmaceutical industry due to the lack of federal laws and federal regulations established to make sure that pharmaceutical entities are making their “products” an affordable price. By having a drug such as Daraprim being placed at a non-affordable price, personages who are indigent may often have to forget about taking the high priced pharmaceutical drug due to their economic status. This means that an individual has to now deal with health issues due to greedy individuals who are trying to make a profit off of people getting sick.

Pharmaceutical entities have a repetitive history as to charging people too much money for the obtainal of necessary medications. For examples, Truveris has claimed according to the Wall Street Journal that medicines related to the treatment of muscle pain and stiffness has climbed 29.8%, while drugs that treat inflammation have jumped 26.6%, and finally that drugs used to combat chronic obstructive pulmonary disease rose 23%. In my personal opinion those increases in those medications are unnecessary and are unjust. Individuals do not have a constitutional right to make a profit off of people getting sick. Obtaining good quality healthcare and the proper medication needed to treat an illness is a right that we should all have respected.

III. Conclusion

In conclusion it is absolutely in the interest of the government to put price regulations on pharmaceutical products. Due to abuses of the system that are constantly occurring, the best interest of and for the health of the general public, and because of the income inequality that is present among American citizens, it is absolutely necessary for the government to establish price regulations on pharmaceutical products. Greed and individuals making a profit off of people getting sick needs to stop and is not a constitutional right. I believe that what is a right is for all individuals to have good quality healthcare and to receive the necessary and the appropriate medication for the purpose of making that individual healthy.

Greed has taken over the pharmaceutical industry by the overpricing of medications that are beneficial for members of the general public to have. It is again time for Congress to establish laws and regulations as to how much a pharmaceutical entity can charge a person for the medication that they need. Therefore I am officially asking the United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions to open up an investigation into

Turning Pharmaceuticals for their price increase in the “**Daraprim**” medicament and an investigation as to whether or not the federal government needs to regulate the pricing on pharmaceutical products.

IV. Acknowledgement letter

If you need to contact me you can send me an email at iscampaign@usa.com. You can send me a letter at:

Isaiah Smith Campaign
P.O Box 163411
Fort Worth, Texas, 76161

Respectfully,

Isaiah X. Smith

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