

H.R. 19, THE *LOWER COSTS, MORE CURES ACT*

Making Insulin More Affordable

Last Congress, we came together to make insulin more affordable in two key ways. First, Congress required insurance companies to make information about drug costs available in the doctor's office before a prescription is written. Patients will know the cost and doctors can prescribe the medicine that both fits their needs and is most affordable, before going to the pharmacy. Second, Congress acted to help certain products, like insulin, get to market sooner, by allowing these products to continue under their current FDA drug approval pathway after March 23, 2020, and then—upon FDA approval—be deemed as a biologic.

H.R. 19, the *Lower Costs, More Cures Act* includes several bipartisan policies that will further increase the affordability of insulin for Americans. These policies include:

Capping seniors' insulin costs. We not only place an overall cap on prescription drug spending in Part D, we also include a cap on spending for insulin and related supplies at \$50 a month after seniors hit their deductible.

Protecting access to biological products. We increase competition and bring new products, including insulin, to market sooner. This will decrease prices. H.R. 19 clarifies that biological products, including insulin products, that will transition from the drug's pathway to the biologic's pathway in March 2020, cannot receive new, extended market exclusivities.

Creating new incentives to lower costs at the pharmacy counter. Insurers, using pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), are particularly successful at negotiating large rebates or discounts for insulin products. However, these rebates are not currently used to reduce the price paid by patients at the pharmacy counter. H.R. 19 would allow insurers in Part D to offer additional plan options if they shared some of the rebate savings with seniors at the point-of-sale, thereby incentivizing them to do so. This policy would reduce cost-sharing for Medicare patients with heavily-rebated drugs such as insulin.

Allowing high deductible health plans to cover more of insulin's costs. H.R. 19 lowers how much American families pay out-of-pocket for insulin by encouraging insurers to cover more of the cost for enrollees in high-deductible health plans.