July 15, 2018

U.S. Senate

503 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Claire McCaskill:

I am writing in support of the work done by yourself and the Republican Senator Susan Collins of Maine concerning our prescription drug pricing situation. I thank you for your work and urge you to continue championing this cause. This issue is far from resolved and complacency will only complicate the issue further. I have been a nurse in the operating room for over 30 years and have seen firsthand the effects that inordinate spikes in medication pricing has had on American people, elderly and otherwise. Not only have I experienced this professionally, but I have been touched by it personally as well. My mother is 85 years old and disabled. She has numerous health issues and takes several medications on a regular basis. Recently, one of the medications she has been taking had a spike in cost similar in nature to the ones you and Senator Collins observed. Because of this, she has been forced to switch medications to something affordable enough that Medicare agrees to pay for.

As you are aware, the Special Committee on Aging helmed by you and Senator Collins unearthed practices that are unacceptable in civilized business. Turing Pharmaceuticals and Mylan significantly increased the cost of Daraprim and Epi-pens, both important, life-saving medications. The drastic increase of the cost of availability for these medications shows a greater concern for financial gain than the welfare of patients who need to purchase their medication. As they are pharmaceutical companies whose purpose is to manufacture medications to better the health of patients, this is outrageous.

One of the primary responses to the Special Committee on Aging’s findings was the Increasing Competition in Pharmaceuticals Act. Through this act, companies are incentivized to create competition for medications who otherwise did not have any. I implore you to continue implementing policy which promotes greater access to needed medications for the elderly and others who have difficulty affording medications. The act of drastically increasing the cost of life-saving medications for the sake of profit should seem easily identifiable as a bad practice. Unfortunately, if it is not addressed, offending corporations are free to continue without consequence. The continued efforts of fighting these acts are important to the overall state of our people. As the Senator from my home state of Missouri, I ask you to revisit the issue of prescription drug pricing and continue to devise ways in which it may be observed and regulated.

Thank you kindly for your time,

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