

September 13, 2023

Secretary Xavier Becerra  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Becerra,

I write today to invite you to hold a patient-focused listening session in my district. I applaud the work the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services is doing to make drug prices affordable for every American, and invite you to hear feedback directly from San Joaquin Valley residents.

Americans are struggling to pay for their prescription medications. A recent survey showed one in five individuals are delaying their refills because it is too expensive to afford. While pharmaceutical companies reach record profits each year, American families are unable to afford basic medications. I was proud to vote for the Inflation Reduction act last year partly because it would allow the federal government to fight on behalf of Americans to lower the price of prescription drugs.

CMS' recent announcement included the first list of drugs for negotiation and an opportunity for patients and caregivers to provide feedback. I applaud you for your effort to include patients and their families as a part of this process. As you begin planning each of these listening sessions, I want to extend an invitation to hold one of these sessions in my district. Access to affordable diabetes medications is vital to my constituents. Nearly half of my district is considered to be pre-diabetic, and they stand to greatly benefit from the work you are doing. My constituents will be able to give you a clear understanding of how important it is that we make life-saving medications more affordable.

Thank you for considering this request and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Josh Harder  
Member of Congress