Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 9, 2016

The Honorable Jason Chaffetz
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Prescription drugs are life-extending and pain-relieving. But for all the extraordinary benefits they deliver, Americans are increasingly unable to afford them. The widely reported 480 percent increase in the price of Mylan's EpiPens since 2009 is yet another example of the harsh reality that the market for prescription drugs in this country is broken. And our constituents are paying the price.

Earlier this year, you convened a hearing on the exorbitant price increases for Daraprim, Isuprel, and Nitropress. Executives from Turing and Valeant produced documents for the hearing and testified. We were able to get a glimpse at what motivated these companies to increase the prices simply because they could.

In light of recent intolerable and inexplicable price increases in the life saving EpiPen, we write to request that the Oversight and Government Reform Committee hold a second hearing on this issue to take a broad look at the root cause of skyrocketing prescription drug prices as well as possible solutions.

Mr. Chairman, prescription drug affordability is a crisis in red districts and blue districts. We all have constituents confronting the difficult decision of whether they can afford lifesaving medications. No parent should have to risk losing a child because of unaffordable medication. We cannot sit on the sidelines waiting for the next life-saving drug to be priced out of the reach of our constituents.

We commend you and Ranking Member Cummings for requesting relevant pricing data and documents from Mylan. The Committee has a unique opportunity to put a spotlight on this dysfunctional market and its various players and to bring forward ideas to fix it. We appreciate your leadership and look forward to working with you to secure a hearing before Congress recesses at the end of this month.

Sincerely,

PETER WELCH
Member of Congress

TAMMY DUCKWORTH
Member of Congress

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