

Florida Congressional Delegation:

We are always advocating for policies both at the state and federal level that ensure patient access to quality, affordable health care. While we appreciate your leadership to ensure this remains a top priority, we wanted to share our concerns around H.R. 3, a policy proposal that would threaten access to medication for all patients, particularly for the elderly, chronically ill and disabled.

H.R. 3 would allow the government to impose foreign price controls for up to 250 medicines, plus insulins, based on what foreign countries pay in an attempt to lower drug prices. Instead, we'd see even more restrictions in patient access as countries that set prices for medicines have significantly worse access to innovative medicines.

Florida is home to over <u>21 million people living with at least one chronic condition</u>, many of whom rely on treatments and medications maintain their quality of life. There is no cure for many of these conditions and each patient works closely with their physician to find the treatment that works best for them.

H.R. 3 would also severely impact medical innovation. By removing incentives for innovation, the policy proposal threatens future medical research and development of therapies to beat chronic conditions. Many of these patients rely on new, innovative drugs and therapies with the hope that it will be an option in the future for maintaining or improving their quality of life should their current therapy fail.

Limiting innovation as we celebrate vaccines and treatments in the fight against COVID-19 is difficult to imagine as we look forward to the promise of similar unprecedented collaboration in the fight against diseases like cancer, Alzheimer's, and ALS. We urge you to join us in opposing H.R. 3 and stand with patients to ensure access to lifesaving medications.

We know first-hand how policies that prohibit innovation, patient access, and affordability impact patients in Florida. We cannot continue to attempt cost-savings by experimenting with patients to find the cheapest, barely adequate treatment – prohibiting both access to care and affordability.

Chronic conditions are something our friends, family, and constituencies will likely live with for the rest of our lives. We urge you to oppose H.R. 3 and explore bipartisan policies that ensure access to quality, innovative, affordable treatments that keep care between the patient and their physician – not bureaucrats.

Thank you,

American Senior Alliance
BioFlorida
Bleeding Disorders Coalition
Central Florida Behavioral Health Network
Epilepsy Agency of the Big Bend
Epilepsy Association
EpilepsyU
Florida Medical Association
Florida State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Hang Tough Foundation

H.E.A.L.S. of the South Health Council of South Florida Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc. Multiple Sclerosis Foundation Oncology Managers of Florida Sickle Cell Disease Association of Florida Sickle Cell Foundation South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce The AIDS Institute United Partners for Human Services