

# Data Shows Americans Reject So-Called Medicare “Negotiation”



Some policymakers are calling for the government to “negotiate” prescription drug prices in Medicare Part D. This is a misguided approach to address health care costs because it means repealing or weakening a key provision of the Medicare Part D program – the noninterference clause – which protects coverage and access to medicines for seniors and people with disabilities. Non-partisan polling repeatedly shows that once Americans understand what government “negotiation” is and what the tradeoffs are – restrictions in access or a slowdown in innovation for new treatments – support evaporates.<sup>i,ii</sup>

## ✓ Americans do not want to sacrifice access, innovation and other tradeoffs that come with so-called Medicare “negotiation.”

- **65%** of Americans oppose allowing the government to dictate prices if it leads to less research and development of new treatments or if it limits people’s access to medicines once they come to market.<sup>i</sup>
- Only **14%** of Americans would support “negotiation” if it could limit access to newer prescription medicines.<sup>ii</sup>
- **65%** of Americans oppose changing the law in Medicare Part D to allow the government to restrict access to drugs for seniors and people with disabilities in order to save money for the Federal government.<sup>iii</sup>
- **82%** of Americans are concerned “negotiation” would make it harder for doctors to prescribe some medicines for seniors and people with disabilities, even if they think it is the best course.<sup>v</sup>



## ✓ Americans want policymakers to work collaboratively to end the pandemic, not set prices.

- **55%** of Americans want the government to work with the pharmaceutical industry to end the COVID-19 pandemic and lower the costs of medicines for patients.<sup>v</sup>
- Voters say the role of the federal government should be that of providing oversight to health care providers, prescription drug companies and health insurers (**72%**), not setting prices for health care services and prescription medicines (**27%**).<sup>ii</sup>



## ✓ Americans want policymakers to focus on commonsense, patient-centered solutions to address their true Medicare concerns, like lowering out-of-pocket costs while protecting robust access to medicines.

- By a more than **2:1** margin, Americans think solutions should focus on coverage: **64%** say health coverage getting more expensive and covering less is a bigger problem versus prescription drugs getting more expensive and harder to afford (**25%**).<sup>v</sup>
- **81%** support placing a cap on the amount health insurers can make patients pay out of pocket for their deductibles, copays and other out-of-pocket costs.<sup>vi</sup>
- **89%** of Americans support a comprehensive, commonsense proposal that:<sup>vii</sup>
  - Requires health insurers to pass the discounts they receive on medicines from drug companies back to patients.
  - Makes what drug companies, insurers and hospitals charge patients more transparent.
  - Supports smaller manufacturers for continued development of medications for high-risk treatment areas like mental illness, cancer and rare diseases.



Government “negotiation” would rescind or weaken protections for patients and could make it harder for people to get the medicines they need. There are practical, patient-centered solutions to improve Medicare and make medicines more affordable. **Sacrificing choice and access to medicines is not the answer.**

<sup>i</sup> PhRMA Myth vs. Fact: Polling and Medicare Negotiation

<sup>ii</sup> Ipsos/PhRMA Poll September 2021.

<sup>iii</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation, May 2021 Health Tracking Poll.

<sup>iv</sup> Morning Consult/PhRMA Poll June 2021.

<sup>v</sup> Morning Consult/PhRMA Poll August 2021

<sup>vi</sup> Morning Consult/PhRMA Poll July 2021.

<sup>vii</sup> Public Opinion Strategies/PhRMA Tracking Poll August 2021.