

From the Desk of Timothy D. Bilash, M.D.

To:

The Honorable Mike Levin
U.S. Congress California CD-49
2204 El Camino Real Suite 314
Oceanside, CA 92054
760-599-5000

1030 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-3906

From:

Timothy D Bilash MD MS FACOG
1155 Camino Del Mar #489
Del Mar, CA 92014
858-876-4855

Cc:

Francine Busby <francine.busby@mail.house.gov>

Mike Levin:

I've had some recent discussion with Industry people about the Scott Peter (CD-52) opposition to passing the Build Back Better Bill Suite. This has been stated and publicized relating to the Medicare Prescription Drug Negotiation provisions. I have reviewed his proposed alternative Bill.

I reference a local online opinion piece, additional to Peters Op-Ed in the Times of San Diego last week (<https://timesofsandiego.com/opinion/2021/10/26/scott-peters-is-right-to-stand-against-doomed-drug-pricing-plan/>). The article supports Peter's position and is written by Sue Peschin, a member of The Alliance for Aging Research (AAR). It appears to be a non-profit trade union, supporting Pharmaceutical Industry agendas.

-The cost of Drugs to patients is dominated by middleman overhead, a lack of price negotiation for the payer, and the inability to import from competitively priced sources. What is inefficient is the connections between Drug Manufacturer and Patient (CoPay & Deductible Overhead); it is not User or Producer, but Aggregators who bundle Drugs for delivery. This needs correction – to reign in the Global Supply Chain Controllers of Drug Formularies.

-Medicare Advantage Copay/Deductable in essence covers the Drug actual Drug Cost, and is subsidized 25% by taxpayer dollars. It looks cheaper to the Patient, but also adds to the US Tax deficit. Medicare Patients also have little portability outside their own County/State, so receive a lower value product depending on their Medication Costs vs Hospitalization/Surgery Patient mix.

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-Katy Porter (CA CD-43) in US House Hearings highlighted that CEO Buyback Cost is 5 times Marketing, which is in turn 7 times Drug Development; 35x Dollars spent on Buybacks compared to Development. That does not mention comparison to the Cost of Production, smaller again than any of these multiples.

2) The Board of Directors and Staff for the Alliance are primarily Executives and MPH trained, not Physicians or Clinical Nurses (most Hospital Units are now under a CNO, Chief Nursing Officer, not Medical Staff). The Advisory Board is highly Emeritus; in Pharmacy, Investment Capital or Statistics. Endocrinology, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Surgery are not represented. Physicians listed are:

-Dennis Doherty, MD : Pulmonology (He is noted as an Emeritus in the Bio, "deputy chief medical officer coordinating research initiatives, policies and industry engagement").

-John Lim, MD : ("equivalent deputy chief medical officer coordinating research initiatives, policies and industry engagement"; <https://sg.linkedin.com/in/john-lim-439b9283>)

-Kanecia Zimmerman, MD - Pediatrics (Fellow in Pediatric Intensive Care at Duke Medical School, which is also the same Institution that John Lim is at), is listed as Associate Professor of Critical Care Medicine. I find her paper, "Incidence and Secondary Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 Infections in Schools" credible and interesting. However, the findings supports the approach Sweden took not to close Secondary Schools in response to COVID-19, contrasting to the United States close downs.

I note she lists a "direct relationship" with Purdue Pharma (an American privately held pharmaceutical company founded by John Purdue Gray – see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purdue_Pharma). I quote from the Wiki article:

"On October 21, 2020, it was reported that Purdue had reached a settlement potentially worth \$8.3 billion, admitting that it "knowingly and intentionally conspired and agreed with others to aid and abet" doctors dispensing medication "without a legitimate medical purpose." Members of the Sackler family will additionally pay \$225 million and the company will close.^{[9][10]} Some state Attorneys General protested the plan." (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purdue_Pharma).

Dr. Zimmerman has direct activity with the Pharmacy Company connected to and admittedly responsible for a greater part of the U.S Opioid Overdose Epidemic (80,000 last year). She does not appear to have provided any oversight or limited the damage it has caused while generating windfall profits for Purdue. "<https://scholars.duke.edu/person/kanecia.obie>"

The Sackler Family itself has been granted immunity from prosecution in the recent Bankruptcy agreement for Purdue, despite having made a fortune from it all:

"The Sacklers, Who Made Billions From OxyContin, Win Immunity From Opioid Lawsuits", <https://www.npr.org/2021/09/01/1031053251/sackler-family-immunity-purdue-pharma-oxycotin-opioid-epidemic>".

No accountability for misdeeds. What a fantasy for Physicians to hold such immunity even if only for non-deliberate actions. We are not accounting for Cost, focusing on Price, only a part of the total outlays leading back to the Patient.

I urge you to make every effort to support and pass the BBB and Voting Rights Bills intact; and oppose every effort to water down Prescription coverage with alternate proposals. The Peters Bill leaves a \$3100 out-of-pocket cash obligation for their medication. Cost negotiation should be for every part that adds Overhead. Or better yet, dismantle the rigid Chains. Holding up the BBB for this non sequitur is deplorable.

Sincerely,
Timothy Bilash MD MS FACOG
Constituent -US House California District 49

Subject: Fwd: House Infrastructure Bills
From: DrTim <drtimbilash@gmail.com>
Date: 10/27/21, 8:19 PM
To: Kyle.Krahel@mail.house.gov
CC: DrTim <drtimbilash@gmail.com>

Kyle Krahel

On 10/27/21 8:07 PM, Busby, Francine wrote:

Thank you for reaching to me at Congressman Mike Levin's office. I am now working in a different capacity. Please contact the new District Director, Kyle Krahel for assistance at Kyle.Krahel@mail.house.gov or call

If you need to reach me personally, please contact me at

Best regards.

Francine Busby

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:House Infrastructure Bills
Date:Wed, 27 Oct 2021 20:05:40 -0700
From:DrTim <drtimbilash@gmail.com>
To:francine.busby@mail.house.gov
CC:DrTim <drtimbilash@gmail.com>

Mike Levin,
Please find the enclosed letter supporting passage of the urgently pending House Infrastructure and Voting Rights Bills and opposing the Peters alternate Prescription Drug Legislation.
Sincerely,
Timothy Bilash
Del Mar, CA

—Attachments: —

21.10.27 levin.pdf

115 KB