

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer  
911 NE 11<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 200  
Portland, OR 97232

March 21, 2019

Dear Representative Blumenauer:

Thank you for speaking out about the need to protect access to medicines in international trade policy.

The Trump administration's proposed text for a revised North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) contains provisions that would grant pharmaceutical corporations new monopoly powers to block generic competition, locking in high medicine prices in Oregon and throughout the United States.

The high cost of prescription drugs accounts for a huge portion of healthcare spending in this country, and too many Americans already cannot afford the medicines prescribed to them by their doctors. We need Congress to reject policies that would exacerbate this ongoing crisis.

Among other problems, the proposed text for a revised NAFTA would require governments to guarantee ten years of "marketing exclusivity" for biologic drugs, the cutting-edge medicines used to treat cancer, arthritis, and other conditions. Other provisions seek to lock in patent "evergreening" practices that extend monopoly protections for patented medicines beyond the ordinary twenty-year patent term.

The White House's proposed NAFTA language would restrict Congress' ability to take future action to reduce medicine prices for consumers and taxpayers alike. It would also impose flawed pharmaceutical policies on our neighbors in Mexico and Canada, exporting our high drug prices and undoubtedly putting lives at risk.

In your new role as chair of the House Trade Subcommittee, you are in a unique position to demand that these dangerous provisions be removed from a revised NAFTA and any other trade proposal moving forward. We appreciate the attention you have already given this issue, and we support your efforts to ensure access to medicine is fully protected.

Sincerely,

Oregon Fair Trade Campaign  
As the Spirit Moves Us  
Health Care for All Oregon  
Nurses for Single Payer  
Oregon Alliance for Retired Americans  
The Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals - AFT Local 5017  
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Oregon Working Families Party  
Portland Gray Panthers  
Right To Health  
SEIU Local 49  
SEIU Local 503