



March 31, 2025

The Honorable Raphael Warnock
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warnock,

On behalf of the American College of Physicians (ACP), I write to thank you and your colleagues in the Senate for your leadership with the introduction of the [Capping Prescription Costs Act, S.529](#). ACP supports increasing accessibility and affordability of prescription drugs. The College firmly believes that medications can only be as effective as our patients' ability to access them. Considering that about [1 in 4](#) Americans find it difficult to afford prescription drugs in the U.S., we appreciate your efforts to address this important issue that impacts the lives of millions of Americans every day.

ACP is the largest medical specialty organization and the second-largest physician membership society in the United States. ACP members include 161,000 internal medicine physicians, related subspecialists, and medical students. Internal medicine physicians are specialists who apply scientific knowledge, clinical expertise, and compassion to the preventive, diagnostic, and therapeutic care of adults across the spectrum from health to complex illness. Additionally, internal medicine is the specialty with the largest number of active physicians specializing in primary care, with 120,342 internal medicine physicians being identified as specializing in primary care in 2021.

More than [131 million Americans](#) use prescription drugs, this include 66% of all adults in the U.S., many of whom are using multiple medications to manage their chronic health conditions. The College has [written](#) several policy position papers and letters underscoring our concerns regarding the high costs of prescription drugs and its impact on the patients we serve. As outlined in [an ACP policy position paper](#) on the costs of prescription drugs, the U.S. spends more on prescription drugs than other high-income countries, with average annual spending of \$1,443 per capita on pharmaceutical drugs and \$1,026 per capita on retail prescription drugs. According to a [study](#) by the Rand Corporation, prescription drug prices in the U.S. are significantly higher than in other countries, with prices in the U.S. averaging 2.78 times more than those seen in 33 other countries. Further, the gap between prices in the U.S. and other countries is even larger for brand-named drugs, with U.S. prices averaging 4.22 times more.

As physicians, we utilize prescription drugs as fundamental tools in patient care, helping us to improve health outcomes. Unfortunately, we have seen firsthand how high prescription drug prices can hinder access to life-saving treatments for our patients. Patients face difficult decisions on whether to spend their money on prescription drugs or pay for other necessities



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such as groceries, utilities, transportation, etc. Many find themselves resorting to cutting back and/or skipping doses of their medications, which can lead to serious health complications. It is estimated that medication non-adherence results in increased hospitalization and mortality rates and costs the U.S. health care system anywhere from [\\$100-\\$300 billion](#) a year. As a country, we cannot continue to go down this costly trajectory. We need sound policy solutions to prevent unjustified drug pricing increases to protect patients' access to care.

The Capping Prescription Costs Act would mitigate the financial challenges patients face with the rise of exorbitant prescription drug prices. By capping out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs at \$2,000 for individuals and \$4,000 for families, Congress will be reinforcing its commitment to improving health care access for millions of Americans across the country. The Capping Prescription Costs Act is a step in the right direction to ensure that hardworking Americans can afford essential medications that they need, when they need it most.

Once again, we applaud the introduction of the Capping Prescription Costs Act, and we stand ready to provide our advocacy efforts to ensure that this bill moves forward in Congress. Should you have any questions, please contact Vy Oxman, Senior Associate of Legislative Affairs, at voxman@acponline.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Isaac O. Opole".

Isaac O. Opole, MBChB, PhD, MACP
President

CC: Senators Tammy Baldwin, Cory Booker, Richard Blumenthal, John Fetterman, Kirsten Gillibrand, Martin Heinrich, Andy Kim, Amy Klobuchar, Patty Murray and Peter Welch