AMERICANCOMMITMENT

August 17, 2026

Dr. Mehmet Oz
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

Re: Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program: Initial Price Applicability Year 2029**

Dear Administrator Oz:

American Commitment is a national free-market advocacy group that has been actively involved in health care policy issues since our 2012 founding, including active opposition to pharmaceutical price controls that would undermine the incentive to develop and bring to market new and improved drugs.

We are writing to comment on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) proposed rule for the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program for Initial Price Applicability Year 2029.

American Commitment strongly opposes CMS's proposal to expand how certain Qualifying Single Source Drugs (QSSDs) are grouped for purposes of government price setting. Under the proposal, CMS could treat separately approved medicines as the same drug when they share an active ingredient, including newer products that offer a different formulation or route of administration.

This approach would allow government price controls to reach newer medicines sooner simply because they build on an existing treatment. This misguided proposal, if finalized, will have adverse effects on innovation by discouraging the development of new treatment options that could benefit patients.

The proposal is especially concerning because many important improvements to existing medicines require significant additional research, clinical trials, and separate FDA approval. A new formulation or easier route of administration can make a meaningful difference for patients. Treating these products as if they are no different from the original medicine gives innovators less reason to pursue improvements after a drug first reaches the market.

The federal government should not expand the reach of the Inflation Reduction Act's price controls beyond what Congress authorized. CMS should maintain separate QSSD treatment for separately approved medicines and reject policies that discourage private investment and medical innovation.

American Commitment urges CMS to withdraw this proposed rule and preserve incentives for continued innovation, competition, and patient choice.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jon Decker
Executive Director
American Commitment