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March 14, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the members of the Public Sector HealthCare Roundtable (the Roundtable) and the public sector employees, retirees, and their dependents they serve, we write today to urge Congress to take swift legislative action to lower drug prices for the American people. Regardless of the status of the larger *Build Back Better Act*, we request you take action to pass the drug pricing package proposed by the Senate Finance Committee in their draft [Build Back Better](#) package.¹

The Roundtable is a non-profit, non-partisan coalition of public sector purchasers from across the U.S. including states, counties, and municipalities working together to bring a voice to the tens of millions of public sector employees, retirees, and their dependents they serve. Over 15 percent of the American workforce is employed by public sector entities, and collectively they spend over \$43 billion annually on health care benefits which serve as a critical component of state compensation programs.²

Our members have a fiduciary duty to the public sector consumers that we serve to offer high-quality benefits at a cost that is affordable. The rapidly increasing cost of prescription drugs in the U.S. threatens our ability to accomplish this goal. Simply put, the status quo is not sustainable.

We strongly urge Congress to pass the drug pricing provisions in the Senate Finance Committee package, that:

- Allows Medicare to negotiate prices for Part D and Part B drugs;
- Creates inflation-based penalty that would require drug manufacturers to pay a rebate to Medicare when a drug's price rises faster than the consumer price index;
- And, modernizes the Part D program to cap out-of-pocket expenses and lower cost-sharing liability in the catastrophic phase without subsidies that

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¹ Subtitle I, Part 1, Section 129001

² "State Health Care Spending: Key Findings." Pew Charitable Trusts & MacArthur Foundation, 2016. Accessed 4 February 2019. <https://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/assets/2016/05/state-health-care-spending.pdf>.

would increase the premium costs for millions of public sector retirees in Medicare Part D Employer Group Waiver Plans.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working closely with you to pass legislation that combats the rising cost of prescription drugs and that simultaneously protects public sector retirees and the American taxpayer alike.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary L. Harbin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "H".

GARY L. HARBIN, CPA, *President*
Public Sector HealthCare Roundtable and *Executive Secretary*
Teachers' Retirement System of Kentucky