

From: "jana thompson" <anajartistry.1@insightbb.com>
To: <drugpricing@ita.doc.gov>
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Subject: usa drug prices unfair

to whom it may concern:

i am a usa citizen and single parent who is disabled. i am disabled due to recurrent severe depression and fibromyalgia.

in order to get better, and have hope of getting off disability, and return to a medical career as a medical technologist, i must be able to afford the medicine my doctors prescribe me. the rx dollars alone run about 400-500 dollars a month. thats for pain, and mainly, depression.

because medicaid in indiana recognizes my 9 yr olds child support, and monetary benefits as a beneficiary from ssd, as my income, i am way over the limit in terms of income, and have a spend down of ~600 dollars a month. due to this, i cannot afford my medication and have had to turn to canadian rx orders, the samples pharmaceutical companies give to doctors as incentives, and have recently given up medicaid so i would qualify for indigent patient programs for all but 2 of my rx. (the company that makes wellbutrin is impossible to get medication from due to their strict screening process to see whether or not an applicant qualifies for other programs. although they have the program and i qualify for it monetarily, it has been months since i applied and have heard nothing from them. the other drug trazadone is cheaper, about 30-40 dollars a month....there are no programs for it).

this presents a paradox for me; i am within the us poverty limit guidelines for the indigent programs, and now only have medicare as my medical insurance. i am 46 yrs old. i have been single since daniel was 2 yrs old. medicare leaves me with huge out of pocket medical bills, and now face about 1000 dollars out of pocket since i had to drop medicaid in march. this does not include out of pocket for rx, also in the hundreds. as i have a 2 yr old home my mother help me buy, (i had no credit or money after having to wait out 2 yrs with no income other than 480 a month in child support while waiting to get disability benefits from the government) i have had to live with my mother all but 6 months of 2 yrs, so my son and i can eat, and have lower monthly bills on my home utility bills. i am currently living with her, and am not sure when my son and i can live once again, in our own home. my income is 1088 a month, my sons is 1057 a month. 90% of his 577 from the government is supposed to go to him. the rest is child support. the state claims 100% of his income as mine, a paradox between federal guidelines and state medicaid, that leaves me with ~600 in spend down if i kept it. my base bill amount is ~1700 a month, (i had to borrow money to live on for 2 yrs that im paying off) which does not include food, medicine, incidentals, car, out of pocket medical expenses for my son and i (he has huge dental bills currently with braces, and glasses),

why is this happening????? why are we a country that gives huge benefits to other countries, and allows rx companies to advertise on tv, give out huge incentives to doctors through lunches for the entire office, free samples ect. i know how extravagant they are; i worked at university of louisville, section of infectious diseases, and could not believe the promotional cost at citizens expense.

why do they advertise on tv? its not the patient that writes the prescription. and, the doctor has already had incentives to push a particular medication anyway, has the knowledge of whats available, and what works best for their patients. i cringe everytime i see an ad, with the huge right off expenses for advertising on their taxes.

to surmise my particular demise, i cant afford to be on medicaid, and cant afford not to be on it. why is this happening to usa citizens? i am not an immigrant, and my ancestors came here centuries ago. if i were, i know i would be better off medically. so why am i having to live in poverty, after serving over 17 yrs as a medical technologist, and taking life threatening risks, helping the sick??? why is my government allowing lower cost to other nations, including those that despise us, and allowing americans to absorb that cost??? i get the fda daily news bulletin, and know as much if not more than the average citizen, on stats posted

through their website. its appalling.

i plea to you, please do not let the pharmaceutical companies lobby for their own interest, at the cost of americans, and also allow price fixation from countries, twice financially disabling americans.

thank you so much for your time, and ability to voice to you,

jana thompson
1002 nettle ridge rd
jeffersonville, indiana 47130
(812) 282-9935 (my mothers)