



HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
CAMPAIGN

September 23, 2015

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chairman  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
United States Senate  
428 Dirksen  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman,

The lives of millions of Americans have been saved, prolonged, and enhanced thanks to investments in research and scientific advances by our nation's pharmaceutical companies. I write today to bring to your attention an egregious example of price gouging and request your committee begin a comprehensive investigation into the specific situation and the broader problem.

Over the past year however, many Americans with life-threatening chronic health conditions like HIV, Hepatitis C, or multiple sclerosis, have faced the cruel reality that the prescription medications developed to maintain their health, or provide a cure, are priced beyond their reach. This week, the [New York Times](#) revealed a case of unconscionable price gouging. Turing Pharmaceuticals, which markets Daraprim, a 62 year-old drug to treat the deadly condition toxoplasmosis, raised the per pill cost from \$13.50 to \$750. A 5000 percent increase in cost not only shocks the conscience, but reveals a company preying upon the most vulnerable individuals in our society.

I ask that you investigate the actions of Turing Pharmaceuticals, its acquisition of Daraprim, the pricing strategy for the drug, investments made to bring the drug to market, the impact of that strategy on patient access, as well as the increased cost to federally funded health programs. In addition, I urge that you hold hearings on formulary and tiering structures for prescription medications offered through the health exchanges.

The Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee has a long history of ensuring the most vulnerable in our society are heard and protected. I urge you to investigate Turing Pharmaceuticals and other companies who are employing strategies that preclude patients from accessing life-saving medications.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact HRC Government Affairs Director David Stacy at [david.stacy@hrc.org](mailto:david.stacy@hrc.org) or [\(202\) 572-8959](tel:(202)572-8959).

Sincerely,

Chad Griffin  
President

WORKING FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER EQUAL RIGHTS

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