

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

August 11, 2026

Submitted electronically to drugs@finance.senate.gov

**RE: Response to the Senate Finance Committee Minority Staff Request for Information,
“Commonsense Policy Options to Lower Drug Prices for Patients” (June 16, 2026)**

Dear Ranking Member Wyden and Members of the Committee:

As leading advocates for ensuring Americans have broad access to lower-cost, safe, and effective medicines, we appreciate the Senate Finance Committee’s focus on affordability. We represent patients, caregivers, and consumers, and we appreciate the focus on lowering patients’ out-of-pocket costs while preserving access to the treatments they need.

One key way to lower costs for patients and the entire healthcare system is to improve access to lower-cost biosimilar medications, which treat cancer, arthritis, psoriasis, diabetes, eye disease, and much more. We ask the Committee to enact policies that expand access to biosimilar medications, which allow patients to access needed and groundbreaking medication at a lower cost.

The potential for savings is significant as on average biosimilars can cost up to 50% less than their brand-name biologics. Prices continue to rise for reference biologic drugs, which were 51% of U.S. prescription drug spending in 2024, despite only making up 5% of prescriptions.

But more needs to be done to unlock this potential and increase access to these treatments for more patients in the future. IQVIA reports that of the 118 biologics expected to lose patent protection over the next decade, only 10 percent currently have biosimilars in development.

In the RFI, the Finance Committee recognizes the potential savings biosimilars can bring to patients if appropriate policies are implemented. We would encourage the Committee to:

Pursue Incentives to Boost Biosimilar Market Entry: As more biosimilars enter the market, medicines become more affordable. We encourage the Committee to explore incentive programs that would both increase uptake of biosimilars and directly support affordability for patients. These programs could take the form of a significantly reduced copay, coinsurance amount for biosimilars, or a shared savings program, in which patients share in the savings the Medicare program receives from prescribing biosimilars.

Support Formulary Access for Biosimilars: One of the most consistent challenges our patients face when trying to access a biosimilar is that it is not included on their plan's formulary. This is driven by perverse incentives for plans to select and cover higher cost drugs. We urge the Finance Committee to address this and encourage them to explore policies that require biosimilar coverage on formularies in the same or a preferred tier to originators.

Ensure the Medicare Negotiation Program Does Not Limit Competition and Patient

Choice: Currently, the Medicare negotiation program is intended to have a carve out for products that have a biosimilar or a biosimilar imminently launching. This carve out is critically important to ensure patient choice. [We are already seeing unintended consequences of the Inflation Reduction Act in the form of narrower formularies and more utilization management, including for negotiated drugs.](#) For this reason, it is essential competition is allowed and encouraged in the market. We urge the Committee to preserve and strengthen the special rule for biosimilars to ensure patients have access to treatments they need as the program continues to mature.

Thank you again for your focus on ensuring affordability for patients. We are aligned with your goals and would encourage you to focus on policies that make more affordable biosimilars accessible to all patients and consumers who would benefit from them.

Sincerely,

Autoimmune Association
Bone Health & Osteoporosis Foundation
Color of Gastrointestinal Illnesses (COGI)
Lupus Foundation of America
National Consumers League
National Health Council
National Psoriasis Foundation