

Senate Democrats Seek Input On Slew Of Drug Pricing Proposals

Jun 18, 2026, 3:12 PM EDT

(Inside Health Policy)

Senate Finance Committee ranking Democrat Ron Wyden (OR) and other Democrats on the committee are requesting feedback from policy experts and stakeholders on a slew of proposals aimed at lowering drug prices, in a move that could offer insight on how the party may approach drug pricing if it controls the Senate after the midterm elections.

The proposals, Wyden wrote in a “Dear Colleague” letter sent Tuesday (June 16), build on the Inflation Reduction Act and are intended to reduce drug prices by reducing drug costs through negotiations, enhancing affordability measures and investing in biopharmaceutical research. He said the potential policies focus on three priorities: lowering the prices manufacturers charge for prescription drugs, lowering patients’ out-of-pocket costs and encouraging biopharmaceutical development in areas of unmet need.

To accomplish those goals, Wyden and the Democrats are seeking input on starting Medicare drug negotiations sooner, removing the provision Democrats call “the blockbuster drug bailout” that exempts some of the more high-revenue rare disease medications from negotiations and giving HHS the authority to conduct more negotiations.

The group of lawmakers are also asking for feedback about a subscription model designed to provide popular medications like GLP-1s at cheaper costs. The model could involve paying manufacturers a fee for unlimited use of those medications, according to Wyden’s request.

“While Trump has busied himself giving showy sweetheart deals to Big Pharma with the alleged benefits for families kept secret, Democrats are working hard to meaningfully lower prices and invest in the valuable treatments of the future,” Wyden wrote, slamming President Donald Trump’s “most favored nation” deals with pharmaceutical companies. “I am seeking input from all over the country to help build a drug pricing system that works for everybody.”

Some proposals target pharmacy benefit managers, seeking increased transparency on inflated prices on PBM-owned drugs and inappropriate prescription claim rejections in Medicare Part D. The

Democrats referenced a PBM reform package the Finance Committee proposed in 2023 to consider whether cost-sharing and coinsurance should be based on the net price of a drug after rebates.

Another proposal would require Medicare plans to better align generic drug reimbursement with actual costs by using National Average Drug Acquisition Cost (NADAC) benchmarks and penalizing Part D plans that overpay for generics.

According to the request, the group is also interested in adding incentives for domestic research involving high-risk science at universities and small biotech companies while also pushing for more clinical trials in the United States. They're seeking ideas for new sources of government funding after the Trump administration slashed millions of dollars in National Institutes of Health research grants.

"It is no exaggeration to say that Trump's actions today are ripping away the cures of tomorrow," Wyden wrote.

Written comments will be accepted and reviewed by the committee through Aug. 17.

In addition to Wyden, lawmakers behind the effort include Sens. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), Peter Welch (D-VT), Ruben Gallego (D-AZ), Mark Kelly (D-AZ), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT). -- *Lauren Brensel* (lbrensel@iwpnews.com)