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For Immediate Release:

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STATEMENT ON THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S DRUG PRICING EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Washington, D.C. – The National Coalition on Health Care (NCHC) strongly opposes the Administration's approach to address drug pricing through the executive orders released today. The executive orders rightly recognize the urgency of addressing drug prices, but we encourage the White House to pursue more comprehensive options proposed by the House and Senate.

"Specialty and many branded drugs have become unaffordable for Americans who need them, and we need a comprehensive solution such as those already proposed in both the House and Senate," said NCHC President John Rother. "The President's proposals announced today are piecemeal, shifting costs but promise unclear total savings for patients and our health care system," he continued.

A top priority among NCHC's diverse membership is high drug prices and the effects the drug industry's unsustainable practices have on patient out-of-pocket costs and the total costs of care. The Coalition has long supported comprehensive drug pricing reform that protects patients, links launch prices and price increases to objective assessments of value, and improves the overall affordability of the health care system. Unfortunately, the executive orders outlined today will do little to address these issues or reduce total costs.

Seniors already [struggle](#) to pay for the medications and industry practices have not changed due to the pandemic. In fact, 1 in 4 older Americans [report](#) burdensome out-of-pocket costs. The high launch price of remdesivir is the latest example of pharmaceutical industry profiteering during the pandemic. A Gallup and West Health poll [indicated](#) that 90% of Americans are concerned that the industry will use the pandemic to raise prices. AARP [reported](#) increased prices for 245 drugs since the first coronavirus case in the U.S. In January, 87% of Americans believed drug pricing was [a top policy issue](#).

The Coalition, instead, urges the White House to support alternative paths to vital reform. Both the House and the Senate have introduced major drug pricing legislation. There is significant overlap and historically bipartisan support for key provisions: including Part D restructuring and out-of-pocket caps that would actually benefit beneficiaries directly. White House support of the [Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Prices Now Act](#), H.R. 3, or the [Prescription Drug Price Reduction Act](#) (PDPRA), S. 2543, would do more justice the [public call](#) to address drug prices, especially during the pandemic, than what can be done through existing regulatory authority.

About the Coalition: NCHC is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, multi-stakeholder organization dedicated to promoting health care affordability and accessibility. The Coalition represents more than 80 participating organizations, including medical societies, businesses, unions, health care providers, faith-based organizations, pension and health funds, insurers, and groups representing consumers, patients, women, minorities, and persons with disabilities. Collectively, our organizations represent more than 100 million Americans.