

April 10, 2015

Dear Representative:

We write today to express our deep concerns about the impact that the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP) could have on the cost and quality of health care.

Our concerns are centered on the negotiations related to patent rules, reimbursement policies for pharmaceutical drugs and medical devices, and the application of investor-state dispute settlement to government administered health programs. ⁱThe policies being advanced in these discussions could result in trade pacts that protect patents for medicines at the expense of patients, and limit the ability of governments to manage the cost of prescription drugs and medical devices in public programs.

Because TPP and T-TIP could have a harmful impact on the public's health and on the financial sustainability of publicly administered health programs, we are troubled that "fast track" or Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) would prevent the Congress from amending these agreements. TPP and T-TIP are too consequential to be negotiated behind closed doors and enacted by Congress without meaningful input. The concerns we have raised cannot be given the full examination needed without a deliberate and open discussion before the terms of these agreements are set.

We appreciate that international trade has the potential to improve the lives of the people of the U.S. and around the world. But for trade to be beneficial to ordinary Americans, it must not undermine a need as central to their well-being as health care security. We urge you to ensure that TPP and T-TIP will not put Medicaid, Medicare and the affordability of medicines and medical devices at risk.

Thank you for considering our concerns.

Respectfully,

Alliance for a Just Society
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Medical Student Association
American Public Health Association
Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc.
Coalition on Human Needs
Communications Workers of America
Community Catalyst
Consumers Union
Doctors for America
Families USA
Main Street Alliance
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare
National Physicians Alliance
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas' Institute Justice Team
Universities Allied for Essential Medicines

ⁱ Please note that some of us have additional concerns with TPP and T-TIP negotiations.