



September 18, 2023

Chairwoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Ranking Member Frank Pallone  
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Chairman Brett Guthrie  
Subcommittee on Health

Ranking Member Anna Eshoo  
Subcommittee on Health

Chairman Morgan Griffith  
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Ranking Member Kathy Castor  
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Dear Leaders of the Energy and Commerce Committee,

In advance of the September 20 Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation's hearing on the Inflation Reduction Act and on behalf of Schizophrenia and Psychosis Action Alliance (S&PAA), I write to express concerns about the law's impact on medication innovation for individuals impacted by mental illness.

Schizophrenia is a spectrum of serious neuro-psychiatric brain diseases in which people interpret reality abnormally. Schizophrenia may result in some combination of hallucinations, delusions, and extremely disordered thinking and behavior that impairs daily life.

People with schizophrenia typically require lifelong treatment. Early treatment may help improve long-term prognosis and get symptoms under control before serious complications develop. Lack of treatment leads to severe negative health outcomes, including a life expectancy shortened by an average of 28.5 years.

Treatment for schizophrenia relies on currently available medicines and psychotherapy. Current medications doctors prescribe most often for schizophrenia are called antipsychotics, which ease symptoms such as delusions and hallucinations. These drugs work on chemicals in the brain such as dopamine and serotonin. Importantly, drugs that uniquely cross the blood-brain barrier are small molecule drugs, which the IRA penalize by applying price controls after 9 years on the market, versus 13 years for large molecule products. This disparity will negatively impact patients with mental health conditions as more R&D investments will flow to large molecule biologics that are not effective in treating brain disorders.

Fixing the IRA to put small-molecule and biologic drugs on the same, 13-year timeline would help prevent the law's unintended consequences and ensure continued research into new treatments and cures for all patients with brain disorders, including those who suffer from schizophrenia and psychosis.

As the Subcommittee explores appropriate changes to the Inflation Reduction Act and its impact on patients, we urge you to address this serious problem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gordon Lavigne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gordon Lavigne  
Chief Executive Officer