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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6300

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May 9, 2017

The Honorable Al Franken
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Franken and Cassidy,

Thank you both for your bipartisan letter. Based on your request, and the conversation the three of us recently had with Senator Murray, we will schedule a hearing, in the near future, on drug spending in the U.S., including what we currently spend on drugs in the U.S., on what types of drugs, and what projections are for drug spending in the future. This will help ensure that we are operating from similar understanding of the facts about drug spending, and help inform what other topics we might want to explore.

I appreciate your interest in working together to improve patients' access to life-saving medicines and the need to gain a better understanding on pricing, spending, and effect of federal policy on prescription drugs. I am encouraged by the exciting innovation that we all worked to support in the 21st Century Cures Act, and hope that serves as a foundation of further work in our committee.

Sincerely,



Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions