



## What Others Are Saying About High-Priced Drugs

"While there are life-saving advances in some specialty drugs, it is critical that clinical guidelines for these drugs look at whether lower cost conventional strategies should be considered first. Californians simply can't continue to afford the rising costs of specialty drugs"

**-- Ann Boynton, Deputy Executive Officer  
CalPERS Benefits Programs, Policy and Planning**

"No budget – public or private – can sustain drugmakers' exorbitant prices, and this latest report is case in point. Improving patient access to these lifesaving medications will require pharmaceutical companies to confront that reality and work with all stakeholders to advance a sustainable pricing solution."

**-- Campaign for Sustainable Rx Pricing**

"This study is further evidence that we simply do not have the resources to pay for these treatments at their current prices. Since hepatitis C disproportionately affects the Medicaid population, state Medicaid programs like California's Medi-Cal will be hardest hit. This inability of states to pay as a result of pharmaceutical companies' pricing model is a barrier to eradicating hep C. Imagine if Jonas Salk did this for the polio vaccine -- the iron lung would not be a thing of the past. It boils down to this: Are these treatments really miracle cures if no one can afford access to them?"

**-- Jeff Myers, President and CEO  
Medicaid Health Plans of America**

"Unaffordable specialty drugs undermine the health and welfare of every Californian, but older Californians especially. Seven in 10 Californians age 65 or older have at least one chronic disease. Pharmaceutical therapies are increasingly important in managing these conditions. Unaffordable in this context means the same thing as unavailable. This is neither acceptable nor appropriate."

**-- Deborah Howard, Executive Director  
California Senior Advocates League**

"High-cost medications have a rippling effect on our economy, and significant hiring costs for California's businesses result in reduced job creation. Californians have a right to know why specialty drug costs are set so high."

**-- Ruben Gonzalez, Senior Vice President of Public Policy & Political Affairs  
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce**

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