



HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE

# HEALTH CARE TASK FORCE

## Arrington, Burgess Commend CBO for Requesting New Information to Inform Analysis of Policies that Impact Patient Access to New Medicines

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, Chairman Jodey Arrington and Health Care Task Force (HCTF) Chair Michael C. Burgess, M.D. issued the following statements after Director Phillip Swagel of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) responded to Burgess and Arrington's letter and acted on the HCTF's request to establish a formal avenue for independent researchers and experts to submit new research and information on policies that impact patient access to new medicines.

*"As Congress continues to work on lowering prescription drug prices for hardworking Americans, it is critical that we understand how policies impact the development of life-saving cures for patients. I appreciate Director Swagel's commitment to working with the Budget Committee Health Care Task Force to ensure CBO's impact scoring methodology considers not only economic impact, but the overall impact to the health and well-being of patients. As Task Force Chairman Burgess and the entire Committee continue to work with CBO on this issue, we will remain focused on driving down prescription drug costs, increasing patient choice and access, and supporting the creation of lifesaving cures for the American people." **House Budget Committee Chairman Jodey Arrington said.***

*"Due to CBO's analysis of the Inflation Reduction Act, the American patient has suffered the cost of not receiving proper or necessary care. I took my responsibility, as the chairman of the House Budget Committee Health Care Task Force, seriously by holding a roundtable with CBO and sending a subsequent letter to examine ways CBO could provide a more accurate prediction. Americans deserve to know the truth. I am grateful that CBO is heeding our advice by taking the initial steps to administer more accurate predictions." **Health Care Task Force Chair Burgess said.***



## BACKGROUND

Yesterday, CBO issued the [public blog post](#) “A Call for New Research in the Area of New Drug Development,” providing an important opportunity for new information and research to help further refine CBO’s ability to project the consequences of policies that impact new drug development in the United States.

The announcement follows close communication between the Health Care Task Force and CBO as well as experts and stakeholders regarding this issue:

- **On October 26<sup>th</sup>**, HCTF Chair Burgess led a [roundtable discussion](#), which brought together CBO Director Swagel, independent experts, and stakeholders to examine CBO’s analysis of the IRA’s impact on new drug development in the United States.



*Pictured Left to Right at Table: Chairman Jodey Arrington (R-TX), Rep. Rudy Yakym (R-IN), CBO Director Phillip Swagel, HCTF Chair Michael C. Burgess (R-TX),*

- **On November 20<sup>th</sup>**, Chairman Arrington, HCTF Chair Burgess, and HCTF Members led a [letter](#) to CBO Director Swagel that requests answers to how CBO analyzed the impact of the IRA’s drug price control provisions on patient access to the new drugs in the United States. The letter also directly called upon CBO to issue a request for new information on how policies impact new drug development.
- **On December 20<sup>th</sup>**, CBO issued a [blog post](#) titled “A Call for New Research in the Area of New Drug Development,” allowing independent researchers and stakeholders to formally submit new data and research regarding policies that impact patient access to new medicines.



- **On December 21<sup>st</sup>**, CBO responded to the HCTF letter requesting more information on how the agency approaches analysis of policies that impact new drug development in the U.S. You can view CBO's response [HERE](#).

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Spending on health care continues to increasingly consume the federal budget. As [recognized](#) by CBO earlier this year, medical innovation, including new medicines, holds the power to significantly reduce federal health care spending by curing and reducing the financial and health burden of disease—and, more importantly, providing lifesaving cures to American families.

CBO [projected](#) in 2022 that the IRA's Medicare drug price controls would result in **one** fewer medicine being brought to U.S. market over the first 10-years following enactment of the law. The roundtable highlighted the growing and chilling effect the IRA is already having on medical innovation, which is delaying and preventing new medicines from reaching patients.

Policymakers need to fully understand the tradeoffs associated with proposed policies that could stifle medical innovation along with the corresponding direct impact on the federal budget, and, more importantly, American patients and families.

The Health Care Task Force, the Budget Committee's health policy incubator, looks forward to continuing to deliver results and work toward improving patient outcomes and reducing health spending in the future.

