



## **AAFA Statement on Senate Investigation into Pricing of Asthma Inhalers**

***Patient advocacy group calls for action to break down barriers that prevent access to and limit affordability of asthma treatment***

**Washington, D.C., January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024** – The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) applauds the [U.S. Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions \(HELP\) Committee for addressing the high costs of asthma inhalers](#). The asthma community needs solutions to improve access to critical, life-saving medication.

There are 27 million people in the United States with asthma and 10 people die each day from this disease. Asthma is a disease that can be controlled, and deaths from asthma can be prevented. [Asthma prevalence and mortality disproportionately impacts seniors, women, people who have low-income or low-wealth, and people who are Black, Hispanic, or Indigenous](#).

The action announced by the Senate HELP committee on January 8, 2024, opens an opportunity to address what [patients report as the primary reason why people don't adhere to their asthma treatment: The cost of prescribed asthma medication](#). When people can't afford their asthma medicines, they may have to make difficult decisions between other life necessities and continuing asthma treatment.

The U.S. drug pricing system is complicated. Pharmaceutical manufacturers, pharmacy benefit managers, insurance companies, employers, and federal policies can create situations that drive up costs and reduce access to critical medications.

AAFA is hopeful that the Senate HELP Committee investigation into inhaler prices is a starting point for a national conversation on asthma costs and burden. Ultimately, we need action that will begin to break down barriers to access and make asthma medicines affordable for U.S. patients.

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### **About AAFA**

Founded in 1953, AAFA is the oldest and largest non-profit patient organization dedicated to saving lives and reducing the burden of disease for people with asthma, allergies and related conditions through research, education, advocacy and support. AAFA offers extensive support for individuals and families affected by asthma and allergic diseases, such as food allergies and atopic dermatitis (eczema). Through its online patient support communities, network of local chapters and affiliated support groups, AAFA empowers patients and their families by providing practical, evidence-based information and community programs and services. AAFA is the only asthma and allergy patient advocacy group that is certified to meet the standards of excellence set by the National Health Council. For more information, visit: [aafa.org](http://aafa.org)