**PACG Health Care Reform Forum Meeting Notes – March 4, 2022**

**Progressive Action for the Common Good**

0. Thanks to Kay for the great articles from ICAN. We can reference using our website.

1. Frank & I made major changes to the [PACGQC.org](http://PACGQC.org) website last Friday. I worked with Jeanie to implement them on Saturday. We talked again on Wednesday to address another link to the old position paper and delete it.

|  |
| --- |
| [Health Care Reform Forum Statement -  PACG Event](http://www.pacgqc.org/blog/health-care-reform-forum-statement-pacg-event) |

2. Deb wasn’t sure if her letter was published in the North Scott Press. Members will try to check.

3. Jeannie wants to know if we want a photo copy of Frank’s letter directly from the newspaper attached to the blog under the opening statement which already says that it’s a LTE. Maybe to show that it was actually published? O.K. with all of you? - Yes.

|  |
| --- |
| [Make Meds Affordable - Health Care Reform Forum Statement](http://www.pacgqc.org/blog/make-meds-affordable-health-care-reform-forum-statement) |

5. Jeannie suggested that we write a statement launching our “make meds affordable” campaign. We could combine the announcement with some of the statements from Frank’s letter. Frank and I will work on this.

6. Decide on which items we want in the blog. We want those items there before going with the advertising campaign via QCTimes.

We can launch the campaign through PACG before things are finalized with QCTimes. It’s O.K. to get the info on PACG’s website, Facebook, and WEU. We’ll be adding to it as we go anyway. We want members to write a letter to the White House right now.

Rationale: The campaign ad is geared to those who are not familiar with PACG.

Items for the blog:

 a. Frank’s letter (Make Meds Affordable) is already there with a link to White House for action. (There’s an embedded link to Elizabeth Warren’s video) Should we put a copy of the LTE here too?

|  |
| --- |
| [Make Meds Affordable - Health Care Reform Forum Statement](http://www.pacgqc.org/blog/make-meds-affordable-health-care-reform-forum-statement) |

 b. Pay or Die video with explanation is already there.

|  |
| --- |
| ["Pay or Die" Documentary About Insulin](http://www.pacgqc.org/blog/pay-or-die-documentary-about-insulin) |

 c. What are “march-in” rights and why should you care? This article was written by Jeannie and the letter from Warren, et all to Sec Becerra is included in a link at the end. Deb has signed this article

([https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2022.02.17%20Letter%20to%20Sec.%20Becerra%20on%20Xtandi%20March-in%20Petition%20(2).pdf)](https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2022.02.17%2520Letter%2520to%2520Sec.%2520Becerra%2520on%2520Xtandi%2520March-in%2520Petition%2520%282%29.pdf%29)

|  |
| --- |
| [Make Meds Affordable - What are "march-in" rights?](http://www.pacgqc.org/blog/make-meds-affordable-what-are-march-in-rights) |

 d. Kay’s article should go here from The American Prospect - Biden’s Big Chance to Lower drug Prices

https://prospect.org/health/bidens-big-chance-to-lower-drug-prices/

 e. I’d like to see this article here right truth-o-meter on use of march-in rights from KHN.

<https://khn.org/news/march-in-rights-elizabeth-warren-presidential-power-to-bypass-congress-on-drug-pricing/>

 e. Press Release [warren.senate.gov](http://warren.senate.gov) - Another press release, but it’s a good summation. Maybe others have something else they’d like to see here?

<https://www.warren.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/warren-king-doggett-urge-hhs-to-exercise-march-in-rights-for-life-saving-cancer-drug-xtandi-to-dramatically-lower-its-price-for-millions-of-americans>

 f. Other considerations:

There’s one article that gives more history on trying to get the NIH to O.K. march-in tactics from a publication called ENDPOINTS NEWS

**https://endpts.com/marching-in-again-latest-xtandi-petition-raises-questions-on-if-nih-has-changed-its-tune/**

5. Jeannie asking for things we’ve done in 2021. We’ve written letters to the editor. I could site Frank’s letter from October 24th on drug pricing. (The letter could also be posted on PACG’s web site but maybe not under our campaign? What else? Connected with other organizations - ICAN and ARA?

Maybe referring to this link on our PACG web site would be something we can site? Looks like Julie’s name is on it. Also good for us to keep in a working file on our desk tops. Straight links to the papers…

|  |
| --- |
| [Letters to the Editor Re: Health Care - What You Can Do Now](http://www.pacgqc.org/blog/letters-to-the-editor-re-health-care-what-you-can-do-now) |

Constant push to save the ACA - letters and fliers on when enrollment periods start and end.

In Dec of 2021, the number was at 13.6 million. In January, at the end of the enrollment period, the total number increased to 14.5 million

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/marketplace-2022-open-enrollment-period-report-final-national-snapshot>

MiIller Meeks candidates contacts - aide in her office. September 2021 - bring up the questions they had - diabetes care 101 - Grassley’s office representative.

Post information social media - Covid related -

Frank’s research - registration ACA extended due to Covid

6. Deb hasn’t been able to meet with candidates.

7. Draft - Policy for the Use of the Editorial Team. I read through it, and now I’m wondering if we are using the new PACG logo in our campaign ad with our forum’s name or are we speaking for PACG itself and should use the logo without forum name?

I’m also wondering if the Editorial Team needs to be involved with the representative from the QCTimes?

Referring to: A. Mandatory use of the Editorial Team is required for: all items under A - if digital documents are involved and if we are speaking for all of PACG

Julie and I found this article on Friday. It’s a good one

https://www.nationofchange.org/2022/02/17/progressive-organizations-launch-new-campaign-make-meds-affordable/

Thousands of people are having to choose between buying groceries and paying for medications they need to survive. Congress refuses to act to bring drug prices down. We are calling on President Biden to take executive action to lower drug prices.