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Ana Mulero

In an effort to get the first set of FY 2019 appropriations bills to the President's desk, US House leaders scrapped a bipartisan amendment that would have required drugmakers to include list prices in direct-to-consumer (DTC) television ads.



Chuck Grassley

The amendment — sponsored by Sens. Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Chuck Grassley (R-IA) — was offered and subsequently withdrawn during a joint conference committee of the House and Senate, despite passing the Senate last month. The move was followed by finger pointing.

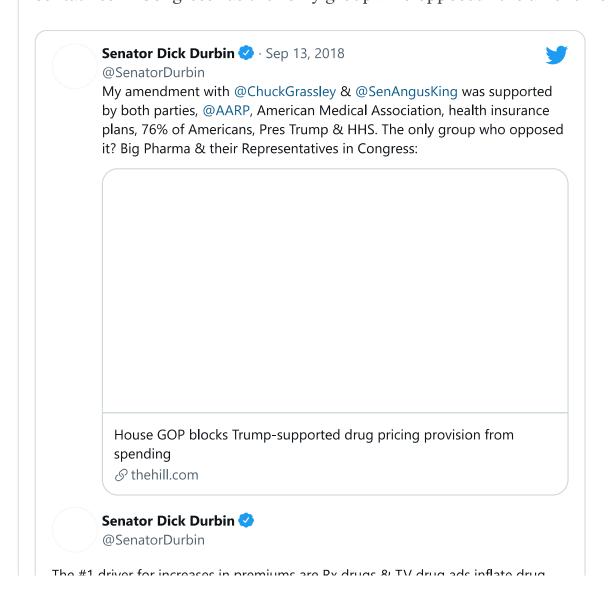


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Transparency in advertising is the very least Congress can do," Durbin added.

Durbin took to Twitter after the joint hearing, citing "Big Pharma and their representatives in Congress" as the "only group who opposed" the amendment.



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Amendment Comments

The Durbin-Grassley amendment, which was not included in the draft funding bill that was released in June, did not make it through the negotiation agreement because to "too many of our friends across the table here, it was controversial," Sen. Richard Shelby (R-AL) said.

Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) echoed Shelby's comments and concerns during the joint hearing.

The fact that it is a Durbin-Grassley amendment that the Senate already passed "speaks to how worthwhile it is" and "people ought to know" how much prescription drugs are going to cost in DTC advertisements, said Leahy. In the interest of returning to regular order, Leahy ultimately sided with Shelby in opposition to including the amendment in the joint conference report.

Durbin and Grassley expressed disappointment with the decision to drop the proposal for now at least, arguing against the characterization of the amendment as a "poison pill rider."

It was removed "in a last-minute, backroom deal," Grassley said, pointing to those that had showed support. These include the American Hospital Association, the Federation of American Hospitals and the Campaign for Sustainable Rx Pricing (CSRxP), among several others.

The bill "abandons the real bipartisan progress the Senate and the Trump Administration made to hold Big Pharma accountable for out-of-control drug prices and give patients the information they need to make smart decisions about their health

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Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

November 26, 2021 07:06 AM EST *Updated 05:32 PM*

Coronavirus

Omicron: Researchers scramble as new coronavirus mutation takes flight around the globe — Pfizer/BioN-Tech, Moderna vow swift response

John Carroll

Editor & Founder

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November 27, 2021 06:00 AM EST Weekly

Thanksgiving edition: Top 15 Endpoints stories of 2021; Can you name that vaccine?; Merck's Covid antiviral disappoints; FDA nominee's industry ties; and more

Amber Tong

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November 26, 2021 08:35 AM EST Updated 12:53 PM Bioregnum, Cell/Gene Tx

What were Endpoints readers tuning into this year? Here's a look at our 15 most popular reports of the year (so far)

John Carroll

Editor & Founder

At the beginning of this year, I laid out a basic objective for *Endpoints News* as we headed to our 5th anniversary. We've long been doing a fine job covering the breaking news in R&D — if I do say so myself — but we needed to expand our horizons on industry coverage, increase the staff and go much, much deeper when the stories demanded it.

In a phrase: broader and deeper.

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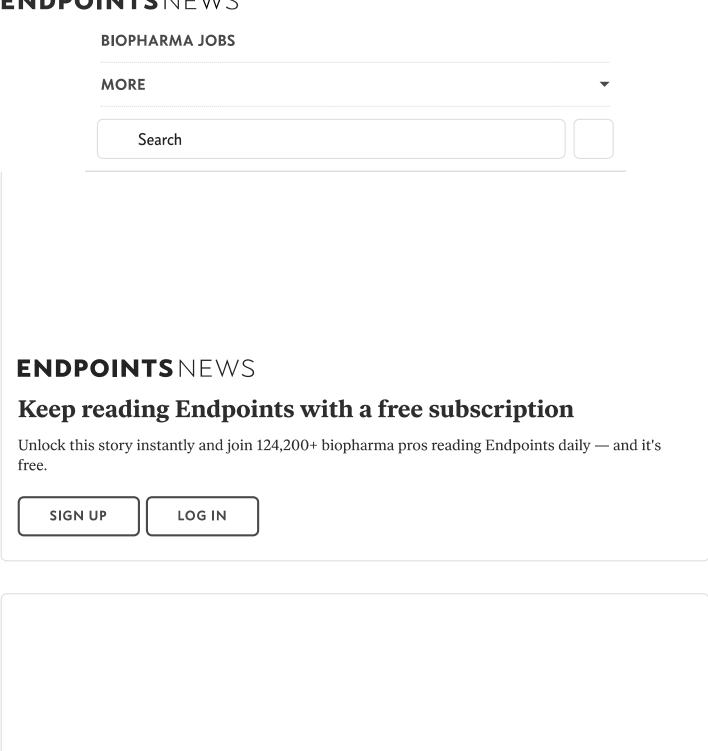
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November 23, 2021 01:39 PM EST Updated November 24, 04:08 AM Pharma, Marketing

MarketingRx roundup: Amgen, Lilly, Biohaven migraine brand recall low, study says; Novartis looks to



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November 22, 2021 05:00 AM EST Updated November 24, 02:45 AM Pharma, Marketing

Name that vaccine: From Comirnaty to Spikevax to Nuvaxovid, Covid-19 shots' brand names remain little-known

Beth Snyder Bulik

Senior Editor

Most people know if they're "Team Pfizer" or "Team Moderna," but few know if they got the Comirnaty or Spikevax Covid-19 vaccine. Those are the brand names of

Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, respectively, however they have yet to take hold with consumers, media or even medical professionals.

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Troy Wilson, Kura CEO

November 24, 2021 07:01 AM EST Updated 10:30 AM R&D, FDA+

UPDATED: FDA hits the red light on an early-stage AML study after a patient dies

John Carroll

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Robert Davis, Merck CEO

November 26, 2021 09:36 AM EST FDA+

Merck shares slide as response to its oral Covid antiviral plunges on latest update

John Carroll

Editor & Founder

After a second look, Merck says that its big breakthrough on the Covid front doesn't look so good.

The pharma giant updated its data on its oral antiviral molnupiravir on Friday, and said that its drug reduced the rate of hospitalization and death by 30% — a sharp plunge from the 50% rate reported at the beginning of October during their interim readout.

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Emma Walmsley, GlaxoSmithKline CEO (Fang Zhe/Xinhua/Alamy Live News)

November 22, 2021 05:00 PM EST Updated 05:42 PM Deals

GlaxoSmithKline places a risky bet on Arrowhead's RNA drug in the failure-strewn NASH field

Kyle Blankenship

Managing Editor

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