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March 13, 2017

Rupert Murdoch  
Executive Chairman, Fox News Channel  
1211 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, NY 10036

David Rhodes  
President, CBS News  
524 West 57<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10019

James Goldston  
President, ABC News  
47 West 66<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10023

Noah Oppenheim  
President, NBC News  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, NY 10112

Jeff Zucker  
President, CNN  
190 Marietta Street NW  
Atlanta, GA 30303

Paula Kerger  
CEO, PBS  
2100 Crystal Drive  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Murdoch, Mr. Rhodes, Mr. Goldston, Mr. Oppenheim, Ms. Kerger, and Mr. Zucker:

I am writing to express my concern about the lack of coverage on your networks regarding the outrageously high price of prescription drugs, something of deep concern to the American people.

Americans pay the highest prices in the world by far for prescription drugs and nearly one in five American adults cannot afford to buy the medicine they are prescribed. Yet your networks sweep this story under the rug.

A study published today by Media Matters for America found that since December 6, the “evening programs largely ignored the problem of escalating prescription drug prices in the United States.” CBS and ABC evening news programs did not include a single segment on prescription drug prices. NBC only addressed the issue once in a segment on skyrocketing EpiPen costs. PBS NewsHour only talked about drug prices twice, once while interviewing Vice President Joe Biden and in a segment on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act.

On cable television, MSNBC devoted just six segments to the topic of prescription drug prices, while CNN and Fox News “mentioned drug prices in only four segments” each.

In 2015, the price of brand name drugs increased almost 130 times faster than general inflation (15.5 percent versus 0.1 percent). At a time when 77 percent of Americans, according to a Kaiser Family Foundation survey, call prescription drug costs unreasonable, your networks’ lack of

attention to this problem is remarkable. I hope very much that this lack of coverage has not been influenced by the enormous amount of advertising done on your networks by the pharmaceutical industry.

I would like to invite you, or your Washington bureau chief, to meet with some of us in the Senate to discuss increasing coverage of this important issue on your networks.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing this issue discussed in a serious manner on your newscasts in the future.

Sincerely,



BERNARD SANDERS  
United States Senator