



**Comments for HHS Listening Session WHA 70
Re: WHA Agenda Item 15.6**

15.6 Cancer prevention and control in the context of an integrated approach

Everyone in the United States who has cancer or knows someone with cancer is worried that changes in U.S. law will make it more expensive to get insurance when you have pre-existing medical conditions, including cancer.

Cancer medicine prices are too high, they are not affordable or sustainable, and access to new cancer medicines is unequal and unfair. None of the 56 novel cancer medicines approved by the US FDA from 2010 to 2016 are included in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines (EML), and many are rationed or not reimbursed even in high income countries, because of the price.

Delegates to the World Health Assembly need to be open to alternative R&D models that do not rely on unaffordable medicine prices as the predominant way to fund cancer drug innovation. The WHO should initiate a feasibility study of alternative R&D modelling that invalidates the need for unaffordable high prices for cancer medicines. The alternative is to dismiss the proposal, and bend to the power of large pharmaceutical corporations and their agents that have a vested interest in defending a system that puts the price of medicine above the interest of the patient.