

Rouzer Sings for His Supper

Letter to the Editor, Brunswick Beacon, 12.16.21

I'm a registered nurse and a senior on Medicare who depends on medications, so the exorbitant cost of drugs hits home. Allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices could [lower costs by 50%](#) and save [94,000 lives](#) annually. A Kaiser Family Foundation poll found [83% of Americans](#) support the idea.

That's why I was shocked at Congressman David Rouzer's [Newsletter](#) in last week's Beacon, attacking President Biden for trying to help Americans afford lifesaving medication. Why would Rouzer object? Follow the money!

Big Pharma spent more than [any other industry on lobbying](#) in 2021. Its current [advertising campaign](#) claims that drug price negotiation would reduce innovation and limit access: the same claims Rouzer parroted in his so-called "Newsletter."

It isn't true, according to a [study](#) by the Congressional Budget Office, which found that most significant new drugs introduced in the last [60 years](#) were developed with publicly funded research. After President Bush signed the 2003 law prohibiting Medicare from negotiating prices, drug companies' profits soared. They pocketed most of them or used them to [kill competition](#). Now, Americans pay [nearly three times more](#) for prescription drugs than comparable countries—you can't access drugs you can't afford.

Why would Rouzer parrot false claims by Big Pharma? Follow the money!

Big Pharma's [biggest political donation in 2019](#) went to the American Action Network, a dark money group that backs Republicans. This year, [it's pouring millions of dollars](#) into an advertising campaign attacking Biden's efforts to lower drug costs. Guess who helped Rouzer win his congressional seat? The American Action Network, which pumped [\\$50,000](#) into the campaign that sent him to Congress!

Rouzer's enthusiastic cheerleading for the law that lets drug companies gouge seniors on drug prices is music to Big Pharma's ears. After all, he who pays the piper calls the tune.

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