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Grace Meng
Congress of the United States
Sixth District, New York

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August 23, 2016

The Honorable Jason Chaffetz
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Gov. Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Gov. Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
2471 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515


Dear Chairman Chaffetz and Ranking Member Cummings:

I write to thank you for your past oversight of price increases within the prescription drug market, and to request a congressional hearing examining the availability and pricing of EpiPens.

According to yesterday's Forbes.com article "Why Did Mylan Hike EpiPen Prices 400%? Because They Could" Mylan acquired the EpiPen autoinjector in 2007, at which time EpiPens cost about \$57. Today, they can cost more than \$500. The availability and affordability of this product could literally mean the difference between life and death for thousands of Americans. Unfortunately, I fear this dramatic increase in price over such a short period of time could have tragic consequences.

According to recent reports, an EpiPen injects less than a dollar's worth of the life-saving drug epinephrine into a person suffering from anaphylaxis (a severe allergic reaction that may result in death). It is unclear to me what warrants such a dramatic mark-up in price, and it is my hope that a hearing before your committee will answer that question. As a mother, and as a Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Congressional Kids' Safety Caucus, I believe Americans have a right to know why access to this inexpensive-to-produce device has been so severely constrained.

Sincerely,


Grace Meng
Member of Congress