

**For Planning Purposes Only**  
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**MEDIA ADVISORY:**

**SMALL MARKET DRUGS, BIG PRICE TAGS: ARE DRUG COMPANIES EXPLOITING PEOPLE WITH RARE DISEASES?**

*Americans Suffering From Rare Medical Conditions Also Burdened by Mounting Costs of Specialty Drugs as Pharmaceutical Companies Increase Prices Over Tenfold for Patients Undergoing Treatments for Serious Diseases Like Cancer and Epilepsy*

*Joint Economic Committee to Examine Sharp Price Increases for Expensive Specialized Drugs and the Impact on Consumers, Hospitals, and Care Providers*

Washington, D.C. – **U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)** will convene a hearing of the **Joint Economic Committee (JEC)** to examine the skyrocketing prices of certain prescription drugs and the impact on the pharmaceutical market, hospital's budgets and patient's medical bills. The hearing entitled, "**Small Market Drugs, Big Price Tags: Are Drug Companies Exploiting People With Rare Diseases?**" will be held **Thursday, July 24 at 10am in Room 106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building**. Senator Charles E. Schumer, Chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, has been a staunch advocate of lower priced drugs and a competitive pricing market. The panel of experts will explore causes of recent price increases for treatments for rare diseases and the negative impact on affected families' fiscal stability and access to care.

**WHAT:** **JEC Hearing: "Small Market Drugs, Big Price Tags: Are Drug Companies Exploiting People With Rare Diseases?"**

**WHO:** **Madeline Carpinelli**, Institute for Pharmaceutical Research in Management and Economics at the University of Minnesota  
**Alan Goldbloom**, CEO of Minnesota Children's Hospital  
**Danielle Foltz**, Parent of young patient from Rhode Island  
(Additional witnesses may be added)

**WHEN:** **10 a.m., Thursday, July 24, 2008**

**WHERE:** **Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 106**

*The Joint Economic Committee, established under the Employment Act of 1946, was created by Congress to review economic conditions and to analyze the effectiveness of economic policy.*

[www.jec.senate.gov](http://www.jec.senate.gov)

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