

May 22, 2024

TO: The Maryland Prescription Affordability Board

I write to express amazement that Dupixent is SO expensive. My dermatologist prescribed this drug when other measures did not relieve itchy skin symptoms.

I'm thankful that Dupixent has relieved my very annoying symptoms, but every two weeks, when I inject this drug, I think about the cost and give thanks that I can afford to use this drug while many others cannot! **I can afford the high cost of Dupixent only because I have excellent insurance coverage which pays thousands of dollars each month.** Additionally, I pay \$25/month co-pay. **This monthly cost is obscene. No pharmaceutical company should be allowed to bill individuals or insurance companies such exorbitant charges for any drug.**

I'm aware of the huge advertising budget that promotes Dupixent – I see the ads when I watch the Tennis Channel, a channel that I expect the marketing department has chosen because of the affluent audience. I understand that in 2023, Dupixent was the highest spending drug brand with a combined 297 million to promote the treatment of Eczema and Asthma. I urge the Prescription Drug Affordability Board to subject Dupixent to the cost review process.

I thank the Board for its effort to address the high cost of drugs in Maryland.

Susan W. Talbott, RN,MA,MBA

I am grateful that Dupixent has been effective, it is a testament to the powerful benefits pharmaceutical products can have on our lives. Medication can be lifesaving; however, I also know that drugs don't work if people can't afford them. When I see what this drug costs my insurance I am appalled by the greed. Drug corporations regularly claim that these exorbitant prices are needed to fund research and development, but [reports](#) have shown these manufacturers spend far more on executive pay and marketing. I'm not at all surprised by this, given the number of times I've seen Dupixent advertised. Last year, Sanofi spent \$34 million on direct to consumer ads [in October alone](#). Imagine how many lives could be helped if that went towards reducing cost to patients or our health coverage premiums, rather than crowding our televisions. This is not a new trend, it is routinely one of the highest advertising spend products on the market. I'm asking that the Prescription Drug Affordability Board consider this in any selection and cost review processes.