# Roshni and I affirm.

# Our Sole Contention is Humanizing Health.

#### Today, American pharmaceutical companies are selling their medicines at astronomical prices.

#### The Open Market Institute asserts that when the U.S. abandoned policies limiting patents in the 1960s, pharmaceutical companies could then patent their medicines, thus becoming the sole producer of their drug and holding the power to raise the price through the roof.

#### That’s why today, American drugs are the *most* expensive in the world. And with every year, the problem only gets worse. Sanders of the Huffington Post confirms in 2015 that U.S. drug prices increased 12.6 percent in one year alone.

#### For example, Long of CNN reports in 2016 that the price of Epi-Pens for life-threatening allergic reactions rose 600 percent overnight and the price of Daraprim, a drug used by patients afflicted with AIDS, rose 5,000 percent overnight, now costing 750 dollars per pill, for no reason other than corporate greed.

## Fortunately, implementing price controls reduces the cost of medication.

#### Professor Jena of Harvard Medical School quantifies in January that prescription drugs in other countries *with price controls* are up to six times less expensive.

## Minimizing the cost of medication yields four impacts…

## … and the first is saving lives.

#### Prescription Justice reports in 2017 that 45 million Americans cannot afford to fill their medical prescriptions. When afflicted with life-threatening illnesses, these Americans are faced with a brutal decision: either pay an astronomical price for drugs and descend further into poverty, or live with the constant fear that this day could be their last.

#### That’s why Sanders continues that these prices mean “some [patients] get sicker, [while] others die.”

#### However, Kantarjian of Rice University explains in 2016 that price controls skyrocket survival rates by increasing affordability. For example, the leukemia survival rate in Europe is 20 percent higher than in the United States because their price controls make medication affordable.

## The second impact is increasing accessibility to insurance.

#### McDonald of Pfizer reports that 47 million Americans don’t have health insurance because they can’t afford it. Even worse, this problem disproportionately affects minorities. McDonald continues that only 28 percent of the U.S. population is Hispanic or African-American, but they make up 48 percent of the uninsured population and Hispanic and African American children are two to three times as likely as white children to be uninsured.

#### That’s catastrophic as Jacobs of the Pacific Standard quantifies in 2017 that a lack of insurance kills over 18,000 Americans every year.

#### Fortunately, reducing the cost of medication reverses this trend, as Rubleski of Grand Valley State University reports that the high cost of prescription drugs increases the cost of insurance premiums by 11.6 percent every year. That’s why he concludes that the astronomical cost of drugs is the number one barrier to lower insurance premiums.

## The third impact is cyclical poverty.

#### The high cost of medicine entrenches people in poverty.

#### Indeed, Khullar of Harvard Medical School quantifies in October that poor adults are five times more likely than their wealthier counterparts to have poor health.

#### He continues that because poor health reduces household income, it creates a “negative feedback loop referred to as the health-poverty trap” that carries on for generations.

#### Not only does cyclical poverty preclude access to basic necessities like food and education, but Dr. Galea of Columbia University finds in 2011 that 133,000 deaths per year in the U.S. are attributable to poverty.

## The fourth impact is increasing innovation.

#### Because price controls increase the consumer market for medication, companies are more incentivized to move to market with more medicine.

#### Indeed, Edwards of CBS News reports in 2011 that companies in countries with strict price controls actually spend more on R&D than U.S. companies do. For example, U.S. companies spend 19 percent of sales on R&D, but in countries like the U.K. and Switzerland, companies spend 42 and 120 percent, respectively.

#### Such an increase in innovation increases affordability of medicine.

#### The American Public Health Association continues that “investing in prevention and treatment of the most common chronic diseases decrease[s] treatment costs by 218 billion dollars per year,” making even the most high-end drugs more accessible to Americans that need it the most. When an innovative treatment cures thousands, there is no longer a necessity to pay astronomical prices for hospital bills, healthcare, or medication.

#### That’s why Janssen Global quantifies in 2018 that every dollar spent on innovation decreases the cost of healthcare by seven dollars.

# Because human health is a *right*, not a privilege, we affirm.