

What Happened to Our Bipartisan Work?

Why take a bipartisan effort to lower drug costs and poison it with politics?

Why are Democrats doing it again through H.R. 3?

Months ago, Chairman Neal and Ranking Member Brady joined their counterparts at Energy and Commerce to begin bipartisan work to modernize Medicare Part D and lower out-of-pocket costs for seniors. That work has stopped and instead House Democrats are pursuing a partisan path that is dead on arrival in the Senate.

Even Democrats like **Virginia Rep. Abigail Spanberger** are frustrated:

“Take, for instance, the wheel-spinning effort to reduce prescription drug costs. ‘We passed two good bills out of the subcommittees and then we put them on the floor [in May],’ Spanberger recalls, at which point her party’s leadership added divisive language related to the Affordable Care Act. ‘And then we’re shocked when they don’t pass with bipartisan support. Well, they were bipartisan coming out of committee, and we put what we knew what would be poison pills in them. Why? Is it that we don’t want to give a president a win if we sign a prescription drug bill into law under [him]? I don’t know. My suspicion is there’s a fair number of people who don’t want to give the president a win. But that’s not what it should be about.”

Now, Speaker Pelosi is at it again. As our colleagues from our sister committee noted: *“House Energy & Commerce Republicans said they were close to a deal on capping seniors’ drug spending and reworking the Medicare Part D benefit before House Democrats decided to push for government price negotiation.”*

Bottom line: As Mr. Brady and others have said, *“It doesn’t have to be this way.”* Congress could— and should— pass bipartisan bills to lower drug costs for American families that are desperately in need. Why is Speaker Pelosi doing everything in her power to ensure that doesn’t happen?

Why are Democrats pursuing H.R. 3 instead of sending over forty bipartisan drug policies to the President’s desk for his signature?

