

August 6, 2022

RE: Vote “YES” on Motion to Proceed to Consideration of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022; Importance of Opposing All Amendments that Infringe on Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Dear Senator:



**National Political
Advocacy Department**
915 15th Street, NW, 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20005-2112
aclu.org

Kary Moss
Acting National
Political Director

Anthony D. Romero
Executive Director

Deborah N. Archer
President

The American Civil Liberties Union strongly urges you to vote “YES” on the motion to proceed, for the Senate to begin consideration of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. The ACLU also strongly urges you to oppose all amendments that infringe on civil liberties and civil rights.

The ACLU greatly appreciates the leadership of Senator Joe Manchin in crafting and sponsoring the IRA. This historic legislation will have significant impact across the country, with particular focus on persons with disabilities and persons who will be helped by the legislation in overcoming both health care concerns and economic challenges. We urge you to vote to proceed to the IRA, and also vote against amendments to it--to preserve this carefully crafted bill as it goes through the Senate and to the House.

The health care provisions in the bill are critically important. We highlight two provisions that both protect persons with disabilities and vulnerable communities, and help address systemic inequality in both health care and the broader economy.

An extension of the enhanced federal premium subsidy for health insurance through 2025 will reach 13 million insured Americans who currently benefit from the premium subsidy. Without this extension, millions of currently insured Americans would become uninsured.

Importantly, access to health care, facilitated by insurance coverage, enables individuals to participate in the economic, social, and civic life of the nation, advancing equal opportunity and personal liberty. For millions of Americans, including persons with disabilities, the continued availability of subsidized health insurance provides

economic and health care security that facilitates employment at a time when the country cannot afford to shut anyone out of employment opportunities.

The bill also would not only lower prescription drug costs, but would also cap out-of-pocket costs for Medicare recipients at a level that, while still high, will—for the first time--put needed prescription drugs within financial reach for millions of Medicare recipients. The benefit of these changes will be especially significant for low-income people, racial and ethnic minorities, women, people with disabilities, and underserved communities that already face substantial obstacles to obtaining quality health care.



Again, we urge you to vote to proceed to consideration of the IRA, and then vote down amendments. The Senate should pass the legislation so carefully crafted under the leadership of Senator Manchin—and do so with no changes on the Senate floor.

Thank you for your attention to this issue, and please reach out with any questions to Chris Anders at canders@aclu.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Anders". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Christopher Anders
Federal Policy Director