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To: Food and Drug Administration

PLEASE DO NOT make heart, hypertension, cholesterol or other such drugs over the counter drugs as is being suggested on news reports lately and at hearings to be held by the Food and Drug Administration.

Three of the seven drugs we currently take and their full costs are: Dibenzylamine \$577.93, Inderal \$42.49, and Mevacor \$130.51 for a month's supply of each. These total \$750.93 for one month. Our health insurance is also between \$700.00 and \$800.00 for one month. We cannot afford to have these drugs go over the counter. This is why we pay for health insurance. What makes you think our health insurance costs will go down \$750.93 for a month by us paying for these over the counter?

Naturally insurance companies would like to see any and all drugs sold over the counter so the insurance company does not have to pay for them as prescriptions. What a dangerous situation for the American public. We need to have a physician monitor these drugs. Cholesterol drugs can cause liver damage and blood tests are needed periodically. The general public has no idea what these medicines can and cannot do, what drugs can or cannot be taken together, or how high blood pressure or cholesterol is responding to these drugs.

When people have to pay these costs out of their pockets, many will discontinue taking them altogether. The results will be more heart attacks, strokes, deaths, more hospital and nursing home costs. Putting these drugs over the counter will NOT be saving money or lives. It will be endangering our lives.

We suggest that you THOROUGHLY investigate the pharmaceutical companies and their suppliers, no matter how much money they contribute to political campaigns. We believe that is where the real cause of the high cost of drugs lies.

Please DO NOT put heart, hypertension, cholesterol or other such drugs over the counter. PLEASE KEEP THEM UNDER THE EXPERTISE OF PHYSICIANS.

Sincerely,

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