

THE TRUTH ABOUT ANNA ESHOO



A New Report on a Disturbing Pattern of Actions

CONGRESSWOMAN ANNA ESHOO IS IN BIG PHARMA'S POCKET.

And that's a problem for Victoria Stuessel, a Californian, a wife and mom to three who lives with multiple sclerosis, an unpredictable, degenerative and often disabling disease of the central nervous system. Drugs to treat MS have skyrocketed to about \$90,000 per year.¹ Stuessel's drugs have cost as much as \$7,000 a month with insurance, which she struggles to afford. She's had to skip doses and forgo sending her daughter to preschool to afford the medicine she needs to slow the progression of her illness.²

Stuessel could use an ally in Washington, D.C. to help her afford her prescription drugs.

Instead, longtime Congresswoman Anna Eshoo has chosen to do Big Pharma's bidding.



VICTORIA STUESSEL

A drug company lobbying group twice³ named Eshoo "Legislator of the Year" and with good reason — they are getting their money's worth.

In her career, Eshoo has taken more than \$1.58 million in contributions from the pharmaceuticals and health products industry — the **most of any Member of the House of Representatives, Republican or Democrat.**⁴

Stuessel has taken, at varying times, a combination of a dozen drugs to control her disease. Four of the manufacturers that make some of her drugs — Biogen⁵, AstraZeneca⁶, GlaxoSmithKline⁷, and Pfizer⁸ — have given Eshoo \$126,000 in campaign contributions.

But Anna Eshoo works for Big Pharma, not Californians like Victoria Stuessel.

"THE DISEASE MODIFYING DRUGS I TAKE COST AROUND \$7000 A MONTH WITH INSURANCE. THIS IS INSANE. THESE DRUGS ARE LIFELONG."

"FOUR OF THE MANUFACTURERS THAT MAKE SOME OF HER [STUESSEL'S] DRUGS – BIOGEN, ASTRAZENECA, GLAXOSMITHKLINE, AND PFIZER – HAVE GIVEN ESHOO \$126,000 IN CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS."

ANNA ESHOO IS IN

BIG PHARMA'S POCKET

Pharmaceutical corporation	Lined Eshoo's pockets
BIOGEN	\$13,500
ASTRAZENECA	\$38,500
GLAXOSMITHKLINE	\$35,500
PFIZER	\$39,000
TOTAL	\$126,500

NOW VICTORIA CAN'T

AFFORD HER MEDICATION

PATIENTS FOR AFFORDABLE DRUGS ACTION

ANNA ESHOO ISN'T PULLING FOR PATIENTS.

Despite polling from Harvard-Politico and the Kaiser Family Foundation showing Americans believe lowering prescription drug prices should be one of Congress' top priorities⁹, Eshoo's name has for years been conspicuously absent from important pieces of legislation that could lower drug prices.

Instead, Eshoo lent vigorous support to policies that would extend drug companies' monopolies and keep prices high — actions that threaten Stuessel and her family, and thousands of Californians who rely on prescription drugs to stay alive.



ANNA ESHOO WORKS FOR BIG PHARMA, NOT CALIFORNIANS LIKE VICTORIA STUESSEL.

ESHOO DID NOT LEND HER SPONSORSHIP TO THE FAIR DRUG PRICING ACT - A BIPARTISAN BILL THAT REQUIRES DRUG MANUFACTURERS TO JUSTIFY PRICE INCREASES THAT HIT CERTAIN THRESHOLDS.

One piece of legislation that could have helped Stuessel was the FAIR Drug Pricing Act, a bipartisan bill that requires drug manufacturers to justify price increases that hit certain thresholds. The National Multiple Sclerosis Society threw its support behind the measure.¹⁰

Eshoo has not lent her sponsorship.¹¹

Instead, Eshoo has for years led the charge on behalf of the industry to make sure, in particular, expensive biologic drugs — which are the cutting edge for treating cancers and other hard-to-treat diseases — enjoy market protections that extend drug company monopoly pricing power, to the detriment of patients who foot the bill.¹²

ESHOO PUSHED TO GIVE BIOLOGIC DRUGMAKERS BETWEEN 12 AND 14.5 YEARS OF MARKET EXCLUSIVITY BEFORE THEY HAD TO FACE COMPETITION TO LOWER PRICES.

According to one report, high-priced biologics that treat diseases like Crohn's¹³, Rheumatoid Arthritis¹⁴, Breast Cancer¹⁵, Plaque Psoriasis¹⁶, and Colon Cancer¹⁷ – Humira (adalimumab), Rituxan (rituximab), Enbrel (etanercept), Herceptin (trastuzumab), Remicade (infliximab), and Avastin (bevacizumab) – cost the US health system a total of \$96 billion in 2017.¹⁸

Drugmakers are targeting each of these products with generic or biosimilar drugs, which would lower prices for patients.

But Eshoo's work has protected biologics manufacturers meaning higher prices for patients.

In 2009, Eshoo fought against her fellow California Democratic member then-Rep. Henry Waxman and the Obama White House, who both wanted shorter windows before generic drugs could hit the marketplace¹⁹. Instead, Eshoo pushed to give biologic drugmakers between 12 and 14.5 years of market exclusivity before they had to face competition to lower prices.²⁰

Eshoo even fought the Obama White House in a subsequent legislative battle to weaken the exclusivity window down to seven years despite projections that the shorter window could save the federal government \$3.5 billion over a ten-year period.²¹



ESHOO'S WORK HAS PROTECTED BIOLOGICS MANUFACTURERS MEANING HIGHER PRICES FOR PATIENTS.

ANNA ESHOO REAPS THE SPOILS (AND HER STAFFERS DO, TOO)

After her strong support for expensive brand-name biologic drugs over their generic counterparts, it's no wonder that Eshoo's 2010 campaign-contribution total from the pharmaceuticals and health products industry — \$228,050 — ranked first among all House Democrats.²²

Eshoo has taken more than \$1.58 million in contributions over her time in office from the pharmaceuticals and health products industry - **the most of any Member of the House of Representatives, Republican or Democrat.**²³

She was even twice named legislator of the year by a big drug company lobbying group.²⁴

Eshoo staffers routinely take a revolving door to high-paid Big Pharma jobs, meaning staffers personally benefited from Eshoo's connection with drug corporations.

"A former deputy chief of staff, deputy legislative director, a former legislative director, a former advisor, a former health policy advisor all have moved on to lobby for Big Pharma clients."²⁵

Deep ties to the drug industry raise legitimate questions about undue influence the drug companies wield in Eshoo's office and on Capitol Hill.

"Who do they really work for?" Jock Friedly, Legistorm president and founder, asked in The Washington Post article on the revolving door phenomenon. "Are they working for the person who is paying their bills at that moment or are they essentially working on behalf of the interests who have funded them in the past and may fund them in the future?"²⁶

**"WHO DO THEY
REALLY WORK FOR?"**

**- JOCK FRIEDLY,
PRESIDENT +
FOUNDER OF
LEGISTORM**



Patients are harmed as a result of Eshoo's cozy industry relationships that prop up prices.

Ibrance is a targeted breast cancer therapy and a Pfizer drug. Pfizer is among the companies keeping Anna Eshoo in their pocket, donating more than \$42,000 to her re-election campaigns.²⁷

Ibrance was approved in 2015 for \$9,850²⁸ per month but has since spiked in price to \$11,796 a month.²⁹

Eshoo's actions to protect Big Pharma's bottom line instead of help patients afford prescription drugs are not without consequence, explained Californian Kelly Shanahan, 57, who has Stage 4 Breast Cancer.

She was recently prescribed Ibrance, a targeted therapy that could give her more time with her family, including her daughter. She is choosing to die instead of put her family through financial hardship.

"I'M ACTIVELY CHOOSING TO FORGO THIS TREATMENT, AS IT IS FAR TOO EXPENSIVE, AND WILL JUST LET MY BODY RUN ITS COURSE..."

-KELLY SHANAHAN



KELLY SHANAHAN

"I'm actively choosing to forgo this treatment, as it is far too expensive, and will just let my body run its course because I could not fathom putting my family in that type of financial distress. The benefit of just a couple of extra months with those I love is not worth the extreme monetary devastation that this will bring my family. The potential effect it'll have on my daughter and her educational career is enough to sway me from treatment. She's already losing her mom, there's no need for her father to not be able to provide for her and face extreme debt."

The only thing that I should be thinking about right now is getting better and spending the most quality time with my daughter, my family, I should be with them, spending my last moments. I should not have to be considering the costs of getting better or how my treatments will potentially bankrupt my family."

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26. Sydney Lupkin, "Big Pharma Greets Hundreds Of Ex-Federal Workers At The 'Revolving Door'," Kaiser Health News, 1/25/18
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28. Jonathan D. Rockoff, "How Pfizer Set the Cost of Its New Drug at \$9,850 a Month," Wall Street Journal, 12/09/15
29. Drugs.com Website, Accessed 9/3/18

Patients For Affordable Drugs Action is a bipartisan patient-led political action committee founded to make sure politicians hear from real patients and not just the drug industry political machine. In 2017, Big Pharma spent \$25.4 million lobbying, and in the last election cycle donated \$247 million to help elect politicians. Patients For Affordable Drugs Action received principal funding from the Action Now Initiative, a political advocacy organization founded by Laura and John Arnold. Patients For Affordable Drugs Action is an independent organization and refuses funding from any organization that profits from the development or distribution of prescription drugs.

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PATIENTS FOR AFFORDABLE DRUGS ACTION