

Hello. My name is Christina Wu. And I'm a breast cancer survivor.

It's no secret that the cost of prescription drugs is too high for many Americans to afford. Across our nation, people are struggling to access medication they need in order to live or function. On average, Americans are charged significantly more than residents of other countries for the same drugs.

I came to this realization myself when, in 2018, I was diagnosed with HER2-positive breast cancer. This particular type of breast cancer is aggressive and was among the deadliest forms of breast cancer. Fortunately for me, and women like me, Herceptin, which was introduced in 1998, combined with chemotherapy has increased our survival rate. And, in its early stages, HER2-positive breast cancer is now considered one of the more treatable forms of breast cancer.

I know that I am fortunate to have had access to Herceptin and other lifesaving drugs and treatments, to have had insurance, great medical care, and a network of support from family and friends. All of these things combined helped me get through the most difficult time in my life and I have been cancer free for 16 months now.

Part of the standard of care for HER2-positive breast cancer is Herceptin infusion every 3 weeks for 1 year. At a market cost of \$15,000 per treatment, that's over \$250,000 over the course of one year and that doesn't even include the other drugs or treatments we require in order to survive. Every woman with HER2-positive breast cancer should be as fortunate as I have been. But the high cost of biologic drugs, like Herceptin, is a hurdle for so many. In total, even with insurance, my out of pocket cost was over \$10,000.

Roche, the pharmaceutical company that manufactures Herceptin, earns an average of \$14.50 in revenue for every dollar invested in cancer research. According to estimates, a vial of Herceptin is sold at 42 times its manufacturing cost. This represents an 85% profit margin for Roche. Herceptin has earned the company \$82.8 billion since it came on the market in 1998.

Since being diagnosed with cancer, being exposed to the painful reality of the cost of treatment, and knowing that 1 in every 8 women are diagnosed with breast cancer in the United States, I decided I needed to help in any way that I could to alleviate some costs associated with this disease. I started my own nonprofit organization called the Remissionaries. We make Comfort Crates for women about to start chemotherapy for breast cancer. Each Comfort Crate is filled with items that help alleviate some of the side effects chemotherapy can cause. It's a small gesture that makes a huge difference in the life of a woman with breast cancer. Our hope is that we can reduce some of the financial burden that a cancer diagnosis brings.

It's time that our legislature does the same. Please help us by lowering the cost of prescriptions drugs.

Thank you for your time.