

# Social Justice Watch 1006

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[Humira's Best-Selling Drug Formula: Start at a High Price. Go Higher.](#)  
[\(Published 2018\)](#)

来源：[Social Justice Watch](#)

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# 图集精选

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Trump's current campaign manager **Bill Stepien** has tested positive for Covid.

He is not to be confused with the previous campaign manager **Brad Parscale**, who is being investigated for money laundering and was involuntarily committed after hitting his wife and acting dangerously with a collection of guns.

Not to be confused with a manager before that, **Kelly Ann Conway** who attended the Rose Garden event without a mask and is now positive with Covid (her own daughter announced that news.)

Not to be confused with a previous manager, **Steve Bannon** arrested on fraud charges.

Not be confused with previous manager **Paul Manafort** who got sent to prison for his dirty dealings.

And finally not to be confused with **Corey Lewandowski** who roughed up reporters and had an extramarital affair with Hope Hicks (who is now positive for Covid.)

<https://www.facebook.com/feministnews.us/photos/a.110963062584254/13306923062584254/>



shit you should care about

@SYSCAbout



Members of the LGBTQ community  
taking over the [#proudboys](#) hashtag  
might be the best thing you see today



Jordan Daly  
@jcrdandaly

▼

Gay twitter has claimed the  
**#ProudBoys** hashtag from alt-right  
white supremacists and filled it with  
images of love, positivity, and true  
PRIDE! Go and take a look, it'll make  
your day 🌈❤️





Bobby Berk ✅  
@bobbyberk

▼

Look at these cute lil #ProudBoys  
(#retweet and make this hashtag  
about love, not hate)





Travis Mayfield 😊 🏳️‍🌈 ✅  
@TravisMayfield

Two **#ProudBoys** + their two proud  
kids = ❤️🧡💛💚💙💜





**Joel Flint**  
@FlintJoel

▼

Twenty years together. **#ProudBoys**  
Proud to be Gay! Not Proud of Hate.



<https://www.facebook.com/shityoushouldcareabout/posts/765113037664322>

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Hue Hefner  
@RadioRell\_



Females... why give your number if you not gonna reply?

**A woman ignored a man's catcalls – so he chased her down and killed her, prosecutors say**



<https://www.facebook.com/feministnews.us/posts/1330630490617499>

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[#proudboys](#)

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#DearNonNatives  
@dearnonnatives

Saying "the early settlers were illegal immigrants" is harmful. They were not immigrants, they were colonizers.  
There's a difference.

Colonizers came here to take over the land and kill us. Immigrants are just trying to live a better life.



bae-in-maine

Ok. Wow. That is an excellent point.

<https://www.facebook.com/FembotMagazine/posts/2360107834021612>

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<https://www.facebook.com/FembotMagazine/posts/3671128532919529>

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## **1. Where is Artsakh (aka Nagorno Karabakh)?**

Artsakh is a small mountainous region located INSIDE the territory of Azerbaijan (the country). The Republic of Artsakh, a *de facto* independent state has its own government, law, and citizenry, and uses the same currency as Armenia (AMD, dram).

## **2. Who lives there?**

The ethnic population of the region is 99.7% Armenian.

Yes, you read correctly.

**ARMENIAN**

### **3. Why is Artsakh located inside of Azerbaijan yet populated by Armenians?**

The area has been historically Armenian since the Armenian Kingdom as early as 189 B.C., yet Joseph Stalin promised the area to Azerbaijan during the Sovietization of the Transcaucasia in an attempt to convince them to join the Soviet Union. Some sort of strange political Soviet *gerrymandering*.

#### **4. How did Armenians get to the region anyway?**

The Armenians in the area did not  
**"travel"** there or **"move"** there,  
or **"end up"** there...

They have always been residents of that region. In fact, historical evidence dates back to 189 B.C. when Artsakh was the 10th province of the Armenian Kingdom.

## **5. How old is Azerbaijan?**

This country is a modern nation rooted with ancient Albanians.

In a nutshell, they were nowhere to be found in the region until recently. Azeris have lived in the Ottoman Empire, but they didn't have their own country until 1918.

For comparison:  
Coca-Cola is older than Azerbaijan.

## **6. How is Turkey involved?**

Turkey has long been considered a ***brother*** nation to Azerbaijan.

They are funding the Azeri efforts not only by financing military equipment, but also by paying for and providing Syrian rebel missionaries.

(confirmed by Reuters on 9/27/2020).

## **Take Action**

**Sign the Petitions & Action Letters  
(links in their bios)**

Armenian Assembly of America  
Armenian National Committee

**Donate**

himnadram.org

**Get on Twitter**

Tag People With A Voice  
Hashtag  
Re-Tweet

<https://www.facebook.com/FembotMagazine/posts/3658963590802690>

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THE DAILY SHOW  
WITH TREVOR NOAH

**THAT'S RIGHT,  
AMERICA. DON'T  
BE AFRAID OF  
COVID, AND DON'T  
LET IT DOMINATE  
YOUR LIFE. AS LONG  
AS YOU CAN TAKE  
YOUR PRIVATE  
HELICOPTER FROM  
YOUR HOME HOSPITAL  
TO AN EVEN BETTER  
HOSPITAL, YOU'LL  
DO GREAT.**



Trump's message to America: "Don't be afraid of Covid. Don't let it dominate your life."

Full coverage: [on.cc.com/2GDixRJ](http://on.cc.com/2GDixRJ) source

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# 消息精选

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A 2016 study published by the Journal of the American Medical Association found “no evidence of an association between research and development costs and prices; rather, prescription drugs are priced in the United States primarily on the basis of what the market will bear.”

<https://telegra.ph/Humiras-Best-Selling-Drug-Formula-Start-at-a-High-Price-Go-Higher-Published-2018-10-05>

Telegraph

Humira's Best-Selling Drug Formula: Start at a High Price. Go Higher.  
(Published 2018)

Humira is the best-selling prescription drug in the world. You may have seen the commercials. Because of Humira, a woman with rheumatoid arthritis can wash her puppy in the bathtub, another with colitis can stroll happily through a fair packed with food vendors...

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<https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/culture-news/jonathan-price-police-killing-wolfe-city-texas-1071219/>

Rolling Stone

Jonathan Price Allegedly Tried to Break Up a Fight. Texas Police Killed Him  
Police in Texas killed Jonathan Price, a black man and reported pillar of the community, as he allegedly tried to break up a fight.

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# **Humira's Best-Selling Drug Formula: Start at a High Price. Go Higher. (Published 2018)**

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Humira is the best-selling prescription drug in the world. You may have seen the

commercials.

Because of Humira, a woman with rheumatoid arthritis can wash her puppy in the bathtub, another with colitis can stroll happily through a fair packed with food vendors, while a third suffering from psoriasis can go to the gym without hiding her neck.

But they probably wouldn't all look so relieved if they saw the bill. The price of Humira, an anti-inflammatory drug dispensed in an injectable pen, has risen from about \$19,000 a year in 2012, to more than \$38,000 today, per patient, after rebates, according to SSR Health, a research firm. That's an increase of 100 percent.

Pharma bosses probably miss Martin Shkreli, the reigning villain of the industry. If you'll recall, Mr. Shkreli, as chief executive of Turing Pharmaceuticals, acquired Daraprim, a drug used to fight infections in AIDS patients, and then raised the price overnight to \$750 a pill from \$13.50. He also trolled critics and spent \$2 million on a one-of-a-kind Wu Tang Clan album, before his conviction on three securities fraud charges last year.

For a time, Mr. Shkreli's antics, along with the soaring price of EpiPens, sold by Mylan, deflected attention from the rest of the industry. A more typical play for drug companies — the Humira play — is to start at a high price and keep raising it ever higher, but incrementally.

"What they have done with Humira is just as unfair, just as morally wrong, but they did it over five years," said Ben Wakana, a former Obama administration spokesman who became executive director of Patients for Affordable Drugs, an advocacy group, because his younger brother couldn't afford Humira without the financial support of their parents.

"People are skipping doses, people are rationing, people are going into bankruptcy because of this drug," he said in an interview, arguing that Humira is both more expensive per dose and has a far higher volume than Daraprim.

AbbVie, which was spun off from Abbott Laboratories in 2013, declined to comment.

How much you actually pay out of pocket, and whether you can afford Humira at all, depend on your insurance and eligibility for discounts.

Anne Marie Garza, 51, an administrative assistant in Houston who suffers from colitis and Crohn's disease, said she had held off buying her latest dose because her insurer had changed. She was trying to see if she could avoid an out-of-pocket payment of more than \$1,200, one of two she would have to make this year, on top of her rising expenses for vitamins and supplements to manage the disease. She has relatively good insurance, but the payments will strain her budget.

"During the holidays, I was contemplating what am I'm going to do," she said. "I was thinking should I just go on a liquid diet, because I can't afford this."

It's a difficult choice.

"It does give you your life back," she said of the drug. "I literally couldn't go away from the house or very far from a bathroom, 20, 25 times in the bathroom all day long, I can't imagine living like that," she said, adding, "I was becoming a hermit because I was so sick."

Humira, which accounted for nearly two-thirds of AbbVie's \$25.6 billion in revenue in 2016, was not simple to develop. It is among a new class of drugs known as biologics, which are made from living cells rather than synthetic chemicals. The industry has argued that high American prices are needed to fund drug development, but a 2016 study published by the Journal of the American Medical Association found "no evidence of an association between research and development costs and prices; rather, prescription drugs are priced in the United States primarily on the basis of what the market will bear."

Competitive pressures have been muted. Copies of biologic drugs, known as biosimilars, are not as easy to produce as normal generic drugs, and AbbVie's aggressive patent strategy has allowed it to further push off rivals. While there are name brand competitors to Humira, they are not exactly alike, complicating efforts by doctors or insurers to switch a patient from one drug to another.

Looking at the international picture tells its own story about drug costs. A prefilled carton with two syringes costs \$2,669 in the United States, compared with \$1,362 in Britain, \$822 in Switzerland and \$552 in South Africa, according to a 2015 report from the International Federation of Health Plans.

"You've got the largest market for pharmaceuticals, which has the highest prices," said Christopher Raymond, senior biotech analyst at Piper Jaffray. "That

doesn't make any sense."

But it is typical. Other countries have single-payer systems, like Britain's National Health Service, that negotiate with drug companies or governments that exert price controls.

AbbVie has put some of its earnings to work lobbying against efforts at price controls in the United States, recently in California. The industry also successfully lobbied in 2006 to bar Medicare from negotiating over drug prices. While President Trump once talked about taking action on drug prices, his administration did not follow through in the health care debate last year.

By contrast, Britain's National Health Service, while strained of late, has more formidable negotiating leverage.

"I do think we need something like that in the United States, not the N.H.S. broadly, but some means of dealing with the extreme pricing instances," said Richard Evans, founder of SSR Health.

An analysis by the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review found that Humira's list price would need to be discounted by at least 55 percent to be cost effective for rheumatoid arthritis, its originally approved use.

Dr. Steven D. Pearson, the founder of the institute, which provides cost benefit data to health plans, said competing drugs were overpriced as well.

"Even in a space like this, where there is a lot of competition, we don't see the prices coming down," he said. "That speaks to the fact that it doesn't often function like a free market usually would."

For now, Americans have to rely on the generosity of the drug industry, such as it is. I took a spin through AbbVie's corporate Code of Conduct, entitled "Inspired by Integrity." It's a lofty document. "WE ARE COMMITTED TO IMPROVING PATIENTS' LIVES," it says, in all caps.

It even makes a point of saying that AbbVie supports the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights. That declaration, if you read it, says, "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care."

AbbVie joined a few of its rivals in saying it would limit price increases to single digits this year, and so only raised Humira by another 9.7 percent this month, roughly four and a half times the inflation rate. For the drug industry, that counts as generosity.

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