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## **The Drawbacks of Free Trade Pacts**

To the Editor:

Current trade agreements preclude and sometimes reverse the very safety net you propose to ameliorate their damage, as new Congressional leaders recognize. Trade pacts undermine access to affordable medicines and offer new levers of power to the drug, tobacco, alcohol, health care and processed food industries. These industries dominate United States federal trade advisory committees and influence trade policy to promote the bottom line over health.

The public, the candidates and The Times are right to call for affordable health care. We also need a new, sustainable trade model that does not destabilize public health benefits where they exist or are emerging among our trading partners. These are the genuine keys to prosperity.

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