

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I participated in Consumer Report's Instacart price testing where we found out that several of us were charged different prices for the exact same item, sold in the same store, and at the same time.

I wondered, was this fair? After all, we do pay different prices for the same cars, houses, and many other typically expensive items, if we are willing to negotiate. Then I realized that in our culture we *know* the prices for these items are often negotiated (and not, I hope, based on any data collected about us). The big difference with groceries and other necessary items, is that we expect everyone to be charged the same price for the same item and don't even have a chance to negotiate. We don't even know this practice is going on. We don't know we are being cheated. No, of course, it is not fair.