



Support **HB3493** (Guzzardi)

Prescription Drugs Don't Work if You Cannot Afford Them

We believe that everyone deserves high quality health care that they can afford. Prescription drugs are an essential part of good health care and a critical component of our health care system. Many Illinoisans depend on prescriptions for their quality of life and may need them to survive. And yet, more and more Illinoisans are being forced to choose between the medications they depend on to stay healthy and other basic necessities like paying the rent or putting food on the table.

The Problem: Illinois Families Face Unaffordable Prescription Drug Prices

- **Prescription drugs are unaffordable:**
 - The average price of insulin is \$5,700 a year, triple what it was in 2002
 - The price of MS medication is nearly \$100k a year, 8x what it was in 2004
- **The high cost is harming our health:**
 - One in four Americans did not fill a prescription or skipped doses due to cost
 - One in eight with a heart condition ration their medication due to cost
 - One in four of those with diabetes ration their insulin
- **The high cost of medications is the leading driver of high costs overall:**
 - Almost 25% of insurance premiums are due to prescription drug costs

Our neighbors and communities are suffering while pharmaceutical manufacturers make record profits. **It is time for our state to ensure an affordable cost for medications!**

The Solution: HB3493 and the Prescription Drug Affordability Board

Our current prescription drug pricing system is broken and cannot deliver medications that all Illinoisans can afford. The Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB) is the initiative that can provide the oversight necessary to reform the system to work for all of us:

- PDAB is an independent, nonpartisan body tasked with reviewing prescription drug prices and supported by staff and community stakeholders.
- PDAB would have authority to review specific high-cost prescriptions and would conduct a full analysis on what price would allow those who need them to afford them.
- PDAB would then set an upper payment limit that would apply to throughout the supply chain for that medication, putting downward pressure on drug costs for pharmacists, patients, and payers.
- PDAB process is transparent and deliberative, giving all stakeholders opportunities to contribute and participate in setting a fair upper payment limit.

For more information, please contact Dan Rabbitt at drabbitt@heartlandalliance.org, (443) 401-6142;
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HB3493 Organizational Supporters

AARP-IL	Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans
ACA Consumer Advocacy	Illinois State Medical Society
Access Living	Illinois Insulin4All
AFSCME Council 31	Indivisible Chicago Alliance
Age Options	Indivisible Illinois
AIDS Foundation of Chicago	Indivisible Springfield
Champaign County Health Care	Legal Council for Health Justice
Consumers	Memorial Behavioral Health
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless	NAMI Barrington Area
Citizen Action – Illinois	NAMI Chicago
Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance	NAMI DuPage
Doctors for America	NAMI Illinois
DuPage Health Coalition	NAMI Kane County North
Everthrive – Illinois	National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Families USA	Planned Parenthood of Illinois
Health & Medicine Policy Research	Protect Our Care Illinois
Group	SEIU Health Care Illinois
Healthcare Rights Coalition	Shriver Center on Poverty Law
Healthy Illinois	Thresholds
Heartland Alliance	Trilogy Behavioral Health Care
Illinois Academy of Family Physicians	Young Invincibles

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