



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.

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HB3493 Organizational Supporters

AARP-IL
ACA Consumer Advocacy
Access Living
AFSCME Council 31
Age Options
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
American Nurses Association – Illinois
Champaign County Health Care Consumers
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
Citizen Action – Illinois
Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance
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Healthy Illinois
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Illinois Collaboration on Youth
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Memorial Behavioral Health
NAMI Barrington Area
NAMI Chicago
NAMI DuPage
NAMI Illinois
NAMI Kane County North
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Planned Parenthood of Illinois
Protect Our Care Illinois
SEIU Health Care Illinois
Shriver Center on Poverty Law
Thresholds
Trilogy Behavioral Health Care
Young Invincibles

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