

The great majority of Americans will sooner or later find themselves depending on one or more prescription drugs to keep them healthy enough to be productive and live full lives. It is not acceptable for those drugs to be priced at levels that force low- and middle-income people to choose between filling a prescription and heating a home or putting food on the table. And if the federal government will not take effective action to keep prescription drug prices from skyrocketing, then it is all the more important for Connecticut to take action to protect Connecticut residents from runaway drug prices.

The recent report from the Healthcare Cabinet contains several recommendations that deserve to be implemented as quickly as possible. One is to create a Drug Review Board with the power to refer cases of unjustified price increases to the Attorney General for prosecution. Another is to require that when Pharmacy Benefit Managers have negotiated a price for a medication, that negotiated price (and not the list price of the drug) be used as the basis for calculating what the patient pays, if a co-pay or deductible must be paid. A third worthy recommendation is to set limits on monthly out-of-pocket expenses for medications, so as to avoid truly unaffordable expenses concentrated in the first month of the benefit year.

Please move to implement these and other recommendations that will help us all to get the medicines we need at a fair price. Thank you.

Linda Bronstein
104 Montclair Dr.
West Hartford, CT 06107