



## Governor Ned Lamont State of Connecticut



FACT SHEET  
2022 Legislative Session

### GOVERNOR'S BILL *AN ACT REDUCING PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES*

Healthcare is a human right that too many Connecticut residents struggle to afford. Governor Lamont proposes limiting runaway drug prices to reasonable levels of growth and allowing the safe importation of lower-cost drugs Canadian drugs.

#### **The Problem**

Balancing family budgets while paying for coverage and care is a burden on nearly everyone in Connecticut. Nearly 200,000 residents, or 5% of our friends and neighbors, lack health insurance altogether.

Expanding access to affordable, high-quality care requires addressing the underlying costs of that care across the healthcare sector. As every family knows, one significant cost is prescription drug prices. Americans pay much more for pharmaceuticals than our peers in other developed countries. In fact, an analysis of fifty drugs purchased through the state employee and retiree healthcare plan showed that if we reduced U.S. prices to Canadian prices, we could save 57% – and if we reduced prices to no more than *double* Canadian prices, we could save more than 35%.

Drug prices are not only unacceptably high, they're also increasing unacceptably quickly. A recent analysis of more than 3,000 drugs by the Kaiser Family Foundation found the prices of more than half those drugs increased faster than the rate of inflation between 2018 and 2019, while the cost of 1 in 7 increased by more than 10%.

Although Connecticut values the benefits of cutting-edge research and the hard work of our healthcare system, those are cost increases on a scale that Connecticut residents and small businesses simply cannot afford. Three in ten Americans report cutting pills in half, skipping doses, or substituting drugs because of the high cost of prescription drugs.

#### **Governor Lamont's Solution**

Governor Lamont proposes working with Massachusetts to limit annual increases in drug prices to no more than inflation plus 2%, similar to bipartisan federal proposals. He also proposes allowing the Department of Consumer Protection to oversee the safe importation of certain drugs from Canada, where they are generally available at much lower costs. President Biden's [Executive Order on Promoting Competition in the American Economy](#) directs the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to work with states to develop safe, affordable importation programs.

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