



Governor Ned Lamont

Fact Sheet: 2025 Legislative Proposal

HOUSE BILL 6870

AN ACT ADDRESSING PATIENTS' PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

The Current Situation

Balancing family budgets while paying for health coverage and care can be difficult for nearly everyone in Connecticut. The number one driver of health care cost spending in Connecticut across commercial insurance, Medicaid, and Medicare, is retail pharmacy costs.¹ Prescription drug costs are not only too high, they are also increasing rapidly. As a result, 23% of respondents to a 2022 survey of adult Connecticut residents, reported electing to either not fill a prescription, cut pills in half, or intentionally skip doses due to costs.²

Americans also commonly pay significantly more for prescription drugs than patients in other developed countries. In 2022, U.S. drug prices were more than double (229%) as high as those in Canada.³ In an analysis of three high-cost drugs: Lyrica, Xarelto and Eliquis, the National Academy for State Health Policy has estimated that, by importing these drugs and reselling them at the prices available in Canada, the United States could cut costs for consumers by as much as 74–90%.⁴

Recently, Connecticut joined a multistate consortium allowing residents to access a free prescription drug discount card, ArrayRx. Since its launch approximately 20,000 residents have enrolled in the program, with enrollees saving an average of \$219 per prescription. Unfortunately, cash purchases made through a discount card like ArrayRx or GoodRx, aren't always counted

¹ <https://portal.ct.gov/ohs/-/media/ohs/cost-growth-benchmark/reports-and-updates/ohs-cost-growth-benchmark-report-cy2022.pdf?rev=a24fd3beb351433eala0fc6eed592406>

² <https://www.healthcarevaluehub.org/advocate-resources/publications/connecticut-residents-struggle-afford-high-healthcare-costs-worry-about-affording-healthcare-future-support-government-action-ac>.

³ <https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/277371265a705c356c968977e87446ae/international-price-comparisons.pdf>

⁴ <https://nashp.org/is-it-safe-and-cost-effective-to-import-drugs-from-canada/>



toward a patient's insurance deductibles. For some patients, this poses a significant barrier to using these cards to get medications at a cheaper price.

Governor Lamont's Solution

The Governor proposes a combination of measures that will improve patients' access to affordable prescription drugs:

- Permit Patients to Claim Low-Cost Drug Purchases Toward Deductibles
 - Establishes a patient's right to receive credit for out-of-pocket and out-of-network prescription drug expenses toward their annual deductible if they paid a lower price than they would have at an in-network pharmacy with insurance.
- Limit Annual Generic Drug Price Increases to Inflation
 - Limits price increases for generic and off-patent drugs to the annual rate of inflation and authorizing the Department of Revenue Services to levy a civil penalty on manufacturers that raise prices above that threshold.
 - By focusing on generic drugs and those that drugs that are coming off patent, Connecticut can respect and encourage innovation yet help clamp down on unfair price spikes for many commonly used drugs.
- Establish a Pathway for Safe Canadian Prescription Drug Importation
 - Requires the Department of Consumer Protection to assess feasibility of establishing a Canadian prescription drug importation program within Connecticut after reviewing quality, safety, and operational needs.