



September 12th, 2023

Dear Members of the Michigan House and Senate Democratic Caucuses,

On behalf of the groups signed below, we urge you to make a Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB) a top priority of your policy agenda in Michigan.

Lifesaving medications are increasingly unaffordable for the average Michigan resident because the price of prescription drugs consistently rises faster than inflation and other consumer goods.

This means many Michiganders are often forced to choose between buying food for their families or prescription medicine. According to an [AARP Rx Price Watch report](#), the increases in prescription drug prices have consistently exceeded the general inflation rate since 2006. Between 2019 to 2020, they increased by 4.8%, more than three-and-a-half times higher than general inflation at 1.3%.

Michigan has an opportunity to act on this important proposal to create an independent, public board of experts to research, review and establish payment limits on the most expensive prescription drugs currently on the market.

A PDAB is not a new concept — it is structured similarly to the Michigan Public Service Commission and applies to the cost of drugs, rather than the price of water and energy costs. Michigan would join several states that have enacted laws establishing PDABs including: Colorado, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, New Hampshire, and Washington.

Creating a PDAB will have a direct impact on Michigan consumers by going beyond transparency laws to rein in the inflated cost of prescription drugs, so Michigan families are no longer faced with the difficult decision of paying for their prescription medicine or paying their utility bills. It will also help bring down health care costs for employers, local government and other groups who insure people. Like with any public board, Michigan residents would have the opportunity to weigh in and provide comments to a PDAB.

We, the undersigned groups, endorse making life-changing medications more accessible and affordable to the average resident through a Prescription Drug Affordability Board in Michigan and strongly encourage you to pass this legislation to lower drug costs in Michigan.

Sincerely,

AARP Michigan
AFSCME Council 25
American Medical Student Association
Committee to Protect Health Care
Doctors for America
Equality Michigan

Health Care Voices
Michigan League for Public Policy
Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters
and Millwrights
Michigan Nurses Association
NAACP of Greater Grand Rapids

Oakland Forward
People First Economy
Prosperity Michigan
SEIU Michigan
SiX Action
Small Business Majority
Universities Allied for Essential Medicines