

Prescription Drug Affordability Board Talking Points

Message: **Illinois needs a Prescription Drug Affordability Board** to help make high-cost prescription drugs more affordable for Illinoisans. **Drugs don't work if people can't afford them.**

- 1) **No one should have to go without access to life-changing medication due to cost**—many Illinoisans are forced to choose between their medication and other necessities, like rent and groceries.

Data: 28% of Illinois adults have rationed their medication by skipping a dose or splitting a pill in half or have gone without medication due to the skyrocketing cost of prescription medication according to a Healthcare Value Hub survey.

- 2) **1/3 of insurance premiums are due to the high cost of prescription drugs.** High drug costs affect everyone, including people who aren't on a prescription medication.

Data: BCBS has reported that drug costs were the single largest contributor to overall spending in 2017, accounting for ~33% of total spending. Even when the out-of-pocket costs are manageable, the high cost of prescription drugs burden the entire health care system.

- 3) **Americans pay more for the exact same medication**

Other countries have rate-setting and negotiation mechanisms in place. Without that in the US, pharmaceutical manufacturers charge whatever they deem the market can bear. As a result, Americans have the highest spending per capita on prescription drugs among high-income countries.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES CANADA VS. USA

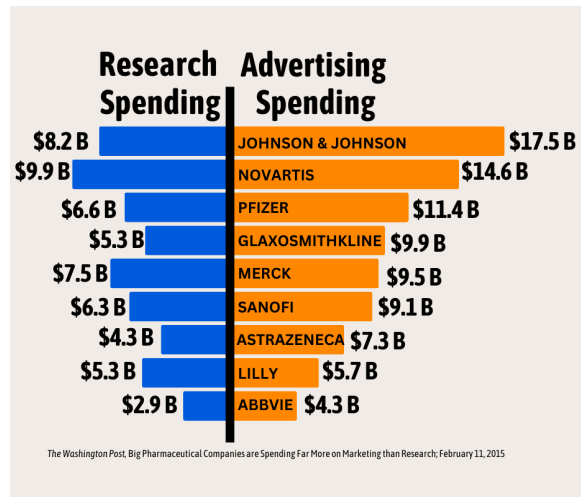
	Canada	USA
ELIQUIS-BLOOD CLOTS	\$1.60	\$6.21
HARVONI-HEPATITIS C	\$797.62	\$1,090.35
LYRICA-FIBROMYALGIA	\$0.63	\$6.04
STRATTERA-ADHD	\$3.93	\$14.81
TECFIDERA-MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS	\$11.92	\$119.24
TRACLEER-PULMONARY HYPERTENSION	\$47.18	\$173.09
TRIUMEQ-HIV/AIDS	\$31.51	\$83.36

*Will States Save by Importing Drugs from Canada? Yes, Here's How." NASHP and Center for State Drug Pricing, 2017



- 4) **Drug corporations spend more on advertising than they do on research and development.**

Despite claiming that one of the main reasons drug costs are so high is an investment in research, large drug manufacturers spend far more on advertising than they do on R&D. In 1997 there were 79,000 DTC advertisements. In 2016 that number had ballooned to 4.6 million DTC ads.



About the Prescription Drug Affordability Board

What it is: **an independent body with the authority to evaluate high-cost prescription drugs and set reasonable rates for Illinoisans to pay.**

What it does: **The Board will review prescription drugs with costs that impact Illinoisans**, including high-cost, brand-name medications. The Board will consider a broad range of economic factors when setting appropriate payment rates for reviewed drugs, allowing pharmaceutical manufacturers the opportunity to justify existing drug costs. Once a fair payment rate is determined, **the Board sets an upper payment limit that applies to the entire supply chain.**

Other notes: when talking about the Prescription Drug Affordability board, please use the terms “cost,” “rates,” or “upper payment limits” rather than the word “price.”