

HB19-1131: Prescription Drug Cost Education

Representative Jaquez Lewis & Senator Winter

The Health and Insurance committee hearing is this Wed. Feb 20th at 1:30pm in Committee Room 0107 (basement of the capitol). Please arrive by 1:15 PM.

BILL SUMMARY

House Bill 19-1131 would require Pharmaceutical (Drug Manufacturer) Representatives (Reps) to share the cost of a drug to health care prescribers. A simple bill with a powerful educational purpose. Many Colorado prescribers receive drug samples from Drug manufacturers. When the Drug Rep talks with the health care professional, besides educating them on drug efficacy and safety, the Rep will now be required to share the cost of the drug. And, if there are other drugs in the same therapeutic class, the Drug rep will be required to share the cost of those drugs.(up to 3)

THE IMPORTANT TALKING POINTS TO CONVEY

A major theme of testimony will be the “sticker shock” of the cost of prescription drugs, but it is equally important to rely the desire for physicians/prescribers to be more informed when they make decisions for prescriptions for patients.

- The high cost and surprise cost of prescriptions have been a burden for me/my family.
- Despite the availability of affordable generic options, physicians don't always know the actual cost of the medication being prescribed.
- Share in your testimony that you would have appreciated your prescriber having a complete range of information, so that if generics were available, they could have considered prescribing a more affordable option.
- If a Prescriber knows that a drug is high cost, they can ask about Patient Assistance programs offered by Drug manufacturers.
- This bill will allow physicians to know up to date cost information into consideration when making prescribing decisions. This enables Prescribers to consider lower-cost alternatives thereby helping Providers to contain prescription drug costs.

THE ASK

- I urge the committee of Health and Insurance to strongly vote yes in favor of this HB19-1131 to lower the cost of prescription drugs for Coloradans.

Thank you for agreeing to testify in support of HB19-1131.

If you have any questions or need more information about the process, please contact us at Sonya.Jaquez.Lewis.house@state.co.us or call 303-866-2920