



Date: April 23, 2025

To: Chair Cavanagh and Members of the Senate Finance, Insurance, and Consumer Protection Committee

From: Monique Stanton, President and CEO of the Michigan League for Public Policy

Subject: Support for SB 3-5 – Prescription Drug Cost and Affordability Review Act

The Michigan League for Public Policy is pleased to support Senate Bills 3, 4, and 5, sponsored by Sens. Camilleri, Klinefelt, and Shink, respectively, which would create an independent body to set fair limits on certain prescription medications to help address increasingly unaffordable prescription drug costs for Michiganders statewide. We thank the bill sponsors, the committee, and the growing coalition of nurses, doctors, public health advocates and more for their work on this important legislation.

For those of you who are not yet familiar, the League is a nonpartisan research and advocacy organization that promotes economic opportunity for all and analyzes the impact of public policy and budget decisions on the lives of Michiganders who have been historically and systemically left out of prosperity. The League is also the state's Kids Count organization working as a part of a national effort to measure the well-being of children at the state and local levels and to shape efforts that improve the lives of Michigan children.

All Michiganders should be able to afford the prescription medications they depend upon to live long and healthy lives. However, the costs of medications often make residents have to choose between paying for the medication and affording other basic needs, like food and housing. Prescription drug costs are consistently rising faster than inflation, and too many Michiganders are forgoing filling their prescriptions as a result. Nearly a third of Michigan residents have skipped medications due to costs, and 6 in 10 older adults in Michigan report concerns about not being able to afford to fill essential prescriptions. Michiganders shouldn't be forced to make tough decisions between buying their medications and putting food on the table, keeping their electricity and heat on, or paying their mortgage or rent.

The inability to afford prescription medications puts a person's physical or mental health in jeopardy and has harmful impacts on a person's health, economic security and quality of life outcomes long term. Medications necessary to help with rare conditions and cancers – but also common conditions like rheumatoid arthritis – are often too expensive for families to afford, especially those who are uninsured or underinsured. Untreated medical conditions can result in long-term chronic conditions or pain, depression, isolation or other mental health concerns,

Using data to educate, advocate and fight for policy solutions that undo historic and systemic racial and economic inequities to lift up Michiganders who have been left out of prosperity.

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school and job absences, and lost wages. Prescription medications help people stay healthy, function at their job, attend school and participate in their community.

Michigan has an important opportunity to join other states in creating an independent, nonpartisan board that brings together a range of voices – including clinical, economic, and consumer perspectives – to examine high-cost prescription drugs and consider evidence-informed strategies to make medications for Michiganders more affordable. We thank the committee for their work on this important issue and urge support of Senate Bills 3, 4 and 5.