



March 25, 2024

Dear Members of the Minnesota Prescription Drug Affordability Board,

We are writing to express our strong support for the establishment of the Minnesota Prescription Drug Affordability Board. We commend the state Legislature for taking a crucial step towards ensuring Minnesotans can afford the medicine they need and thank you for your service on the Board.

As patients, medical professionals, labor, and community organizations, we understand the profound impact that the rising costs of prescription drugs have on the health and well-being of individuals and families across the state. Nearly half (45%) of Minnesotans are worried about prescription drug costs, and one in five Minnesotans (21%) has rationed prescription medicine in recent years due to cost (Healthcare Value Hub). Data shows pharmaceutical companies are continuing to hike up the price of certain drugs without good reason for an increase.

The creation of the PDAB demonstrates a commitment to addressing high drug costs across the state, which are affecting all Minnesotans at the pharmacy, in rising health insurance premiums, and in costs to our public programs.

The work of this Board will ensure that patients and medical professionals have a course of action they can take when prescription drugs are posing an affordability challenge. It will also help address the legal price-gouging of prescription drugs that is harming patients and contributing to health insurance becoming increasingly unaffordable for individuals to purchase and employers to provide.

We anticipate backlash from the pharmaceutical industry who has already spent millions of dollars lobbying against the PDAB and stand firm in our support for the Board's work and authority. Prescription drugs don't work if people cannot afford them.

Signed,

AARP MN
AFSCME Council 5
AFSCME Retirees
Committee to Protect Health Care
ISAIAH

Minnesota Farmers Union
Minnesota Nurses Association
MN AFL-CIO
SEIU Healthcare Minnesota & Iowa
TakeAction Minnesota