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Senate Democrats Introduce Package of Bills to Address Skyrocketing Prescription Drug Prices

CONCORD - Today, a package of six bills to combat rising prescription drug costs was introduced to the Senate Commerce Committee. The bills are aimed at creating transparency in prescription drug pricing and maintaining affordable health care for New Hampshire residents.

After the hearings, the prime sponsors of the bills released the following statements:

“Skyrocketing prescription drug prices are crushing every Granite State families. It is incumbent upon every elected official to take action now to address this crisis and Senate Democrats are proudly leading the way,” said **Senate Majority Leader Dan Feltes (D-Concord)**, prime sponsor of SB 685. “Maine and Vermont recently implemented the importation of less expensive prescription drugs from Canada; New Hampshire consumers should not be left behind when a common sense solution is readily available.”

Senator Cindy Rosenwald (D-Nashua), prime sponsor of SB 686, added “No family should be forced to choose between their physical health and putting food on the table. Unfortunately, our current prescription drug pricing system means families across the state are doing just that. It is our job as legislators to do everything we can to protect the health and wellbeing of New Hampshire families, and that’s what this package of bills will do.”

“We understand the importance of checks and balances and believe that drug manufacturers need to be held to a new standard that ensures price hikes are warranted and do not harm patients by making essential medications unaffordable,” stated **Senator Fuller Clark (D-Portsmouth)**, prime sponsor of SB 688 and SB 690.

Senator Dr. Tom Sherman (D-Rye), prime sponsor of SB 687 and SB 689, concluded, “The cost and reimbursement structure for prescription drugs is complicated. We are aiming to bridge the gap between those working on the inside, the state of New Hampshire and health care professionals to ensure professionals have the tools they need to make informed decisions and protect their patients and Granite State taxpayers.”

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Background:

- SB 685 introduced by Senator Feltes establishes a wholesale prescription drug importation program
- SB 688 introduced by Senator Fuller Clark prohibits price gouging in the sale of prescription drugs
- SB 690 introduced by Senator Fuller Clark prohibits prescription drug formulary changes during a contract year under the managed care law
- SB 687 introduced by Senator Sherman establishes a New Hampshire prescription drug affordability board
- SB 689 introduced by Senator Sherman prohibits a referral of a patient to a pharmacy by a health carrier or pharmacy benefit manager for pharmacy care.
- SB 686 introduced by Senator Rosenwald requires pharmacy benefit managers to pass rebates paid by manufacturers on to the consumer or health benefit plan.