



NH SENATE PRESS RELEASE

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Prescription Drug Amendment Introduced to Senate Commerce Committee

CONCORD - Today, the Senate Commerce Committee heard an amendment to HB 1280-FN. The amendment, co-sponsored by Senator Kevin Cavanaugh (D-Manchester), Senator Dan Feltes (D-Concord), Senator Martha Fuller Clark (D-Portsmouth), Senator Cindy Rosenwald (D-Nashua), and Senator Tom Sherman (D-Rye), increases prescription drug affordability and improves access to affordable health care for Granite Staters.

After the committee hearing, Senate Majority Leader Dan Feltes and Senate Commerce Chair Kevin Cavanaugh issued the following statements:

“Every day, New Hampshire's families are getting crushed by the highest health care costs in the nation, including the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs. No one should ever be forced to choose between their health and their financial security. Unfortunately, that's a decision that too many Granite Staters make -- every single day. As legislators, it is our job to do everything we can to protect the health and wellbeing of New Hampshire families, and this amendment does just that,” said **Senate Majority Leader Dan Feltes (D-Concord)**.

“The cost and reimbursement structure for prescription drugs is complicated. By working to bridge the gap between those working directly in the industry with New Hampshire's health care professions, we create the tools needed to allow our providers to make informed decisions that protect not only the patient's health but their financial security,” **Senate Commerce Chair Kevin Cavanaugh (D-Manchester)** added. “The effects of the coronavirus will be felt by all for years to come. As our families begin to rebuild and the state begins to stabilize, many people will face unforeseen financial challenges. The ability to provide themselves or their children life-saving and life-sustaining medication should not be on the chopping block. It is incumbent upon every elected official to take action now at this critical moment in history to address the prescription drug affordability crisis.”

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On Background:

- This amendment included text from the following bills:
 - SB 685 establishing a wholesale prescription drug importation program and establishing the New Hampshire prescription drug competitive marketplace, sponsored by Senator Dan Feltes
 - SB 686 relative to prescription drug benefits paid by health plans and establishing the New Hampshire prescription drug competitive marketplace, Sponsored by Senator Cindy Rosenwald
 - SB 687 relative to transparency in prescription drug pricing and establishing a New Hampshire prescription drug affordability board, Sponsored by Senator Tom Sherman
 - SB 688 relative to the pricing of generic prescription drugs, Sponsored by Senator Fuller Clark
 - SB 691 relative to prior authorization for prescription drug coverage, Sponsored by Senator Cindy Rosenwald
 - HB 1281 requiring insurance coverage for epinephrine auto-injectors, Sponsored by Representative Chuck Grassie
 - HB 1280 relative to copayments for insulin, Sponsored by Rep. Garrett Muscatel
- Full text of the amendment can be found [here](#)
- Members of the public were invited to listen in or speak during the hearing through Zoom, YouTube, call in, or submit questions through email