

REP. LAUREN UNDERWOOD'S

FIVE POINT PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN



1 REDUCE OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

All Americans should be able to afford their prescription drugs. Instead, our system allows far too many people to be stuck in an unaffordable cycle of endless, expensive co-payments, often putting these lifesaving medications out of reach. By capping Medicare out-of-pocket prescription drugs costs at \$2,000 per year, we can dramatically improve the Part D Drug benefit, which currently allows unlimited out-of-pocket costs. Americans with private insurance coverage would also see real savings from eliminating out-of-pocket costs for common medications like insulin and inhalers used to treat chronic conditions like diabetes and asthma.

2 NEGOTIATE LOWER DRUG PRICES FOR ALL AMERICANS

The Secretary of Health and Human Services should be able to negotiate lower prices on behalf of all Americans for the highest cost drugs and insulin. President Trump has repeatedly called for negotiation and pointed out at the 2019 State of the Union Address that it is “unacceptable that Americans pay vastly more than people in other countries for the exact same drugs.” Negotiation will stop pharmaceutical companies from price gouging American patients. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates negotiation will lower prices by 55 percent, saving Medicare \$345 billion between 2023 and 2029, and lowering insurance premiums and out-of-pocket costs for families. CBO further states what we all intuitively know to be true: when people can afford their drugs, they will be healthier and avoid higher-cost care, saving Medicare \$40 billion.

3 ELIMINATE OUTRAGEOUS PRICE HIKES

Drug companies shouldn't be allowed to hike the prices of life saving drugs like insulin year over year. Under the plan, new transparency requirements would make pharmaceutical companies publicly report and justify price increases, and new enforcement authorities would penalize drug companies that unjustifiably raise prices by requiring them to pay that extra money back to the purchaser, which will prevent companies from raising prices in the first place.

4 ENSURE GENERICS REMAIN AFFORDABLE OPTIONS

Name-brand drug manufacturers are gaming the system to prevent more affordable generic drugs from becoming available options for consumers. Closing these loopholes would bring more low-cost drug options to local pharmacies.

5 INVEST IN RESEARCH FOR TOMORROW'S CURES

We need to continue to invest in research that will lead to innovative prevention, treatments, and cures by restoring full federal funding for biomedical research over 10 years. These critical investments will create breakthrough treatments and lifesaving cures while supporting high-quality jobs in northern Illinois and billions of dollars in economic output.