

FACT SHEET: HB 1269

STRENGTHENING PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICE ACCOUNTABILITY



The high cost of prescription drugs is a paramount issue for Washingtonians and is the primary reason patients don't take their medication as prescribed, harming their health and well-being. The Legislature needs to take action to lower the cost of prescription drugs by passing [HB 1269](#) to strengthen the state's Prescription Drug Affordability Board.

THE PROBLEM: WEAK DRUG PRICE ACCOUNTABILITY

A recent poll reveals some of the devastating impacts of high prescription drug costs on Washingtonians:

- **27%** of respondents [cut pills in half, skipped doses of medicine or did not fill](#) a prescription due to cost; and
- nearly **40%** said they received the care they needed but [struggled to pay](#) the resulting bill.

Last year's PDAB bill only allows affordability reviews for 19 of the 50 drugs with the highest total spending in the state's Uniform Medical Plan. If HB 1269 passes, 37 of the top 50 drugs will be eligible.

Last year, the Legislature took an important first step towards addressing the high cost of prescription drugs by establishing the [Prescription Drug Affordability Board \(PDAB\)](#). The PDAB is one of the few tools available to the state to review the affordability of prescription drugs. For the most unaffordable drugs, it can establish upper payment limits while including protections to ensure patients do not lose access to these life-saving medications.

Creating the PDAB was a step in the right direction, but we need to strengthen the tool. Many expensive drugs are not eligible for affordability reviews and implementation timelines are too slow to deliver savings as quickly as we need them. We must also ensure the PDAB can conduct business without influence from the pharmaceutical industry.

THE SOLUTION: STRENGTHEN THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG AFFORDABILITY BOARD

[HB 1269](#) makes important changes that are necessary to increase prescription drug price accountability and offer relief to patients sooner. The bill:

- Increases the number of drugs subject to oversight
- Speeds up the timeline for affordability reviews and upper payment limits
- Removes pharmaceutical industry representatives from PDAB advisory groups

Please support [HB 1269](#).