**Michigan’s Prescription Drug Affordability Initiative**

**WHEREAS**, to protect our lives and our well-being, every family in Michigan requires access to

affordable prescription drugs;

**WHEREAS**, skyrocketing costs are making some medicines virtually inaccessible to our families and neighbors, with nearly one-third of adults reporting not taking their medicines as prescribed due to cost;

**WHEREAS**, in 2019 drug manufacturers raised the prices of over 3,400 prescription drugs, with price hikes that were five times more than the average rate of inflation;

**WHEREAS**, prescription drug spending accounted for over 22% of each health insurance premium dollar spent between 2014 and 2016, making it consumers’ single biggest expense on insurance premiums;

**WHEREAS,** the average annual cost of prescription drug treatment increased 57.8% between 2012 and 2017, while the annual income for Michiganders only increased 10.9%;

**WHEREAS,** Michigan should continue to work to develop ways to help consumers afford their medications, building upon the State’s creation of a Prescription Drug Advisory Taskforce;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the undersigned organization supports creating a new Prescription Drug Affordability Board to determine how best to make prescription drugs more affordable for all Michigan residents including by: examining the entire drug supply chain, including the role of drug manufacturers and Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs), and establishing payment rates for expensive drugs that create significant affordability problems for Michigan(ders or ians), building upon the State’s efforts to lower prescription drug and health care costs for all residents.

Organization:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Title/Role with Organization: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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<https://www.kff.org/health-costs/poll-finding/kff-health-tracking-poll-february-2019-prescription-drugs/>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/drug-prices-in-2019-are-surging-with-hikes-at-5-times-inflation/>

<https://www.ahip.org/prescription-drugs-are-largest-single-expense-of-consumer-premium-dollars/>

<https://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/politics/advocacy/2019/07/michigan-rx-state-factsheet-final.pdf>

* The first WHEREAS is from national data, but AARP shows 32% of Michigan residents stopped taking their medication due to cost in 2017 if you want to be more specific (<https://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/politics/advocacy/2019/09/rx-state-infographic-three-issues-michigan.pdf>)

Additional points/possible substitutions/good resources:

In January of 2021, PhRMA hiked the prices of over 600 drugs, with 99% raised over the rate of inflation: <https://patientsforaffordabledrugs.org/2021/01/13/jan-2021-price-hikes/>

9 in 10 are concerned that PhRMA will use the pandemic to justify price hikes on medication: <https://news.gallup.com/poll/312641/nine-concerned-rising-drug-costs-due-covid.aspx>

79% of Americans feel that the cost of prescription drugs are unreasonable: <https://www.kff.org/slideshow/public-opinion-on-prescription-drugs-and-their-prices/>

General points can be gathered from:

<https://familiesusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Rx_Drug-Affordability-1.pdf>

<https://news.gallup.com/poll/308036/report-increase-cost-prescription-drugs.aspx>