



123 W. Allegan St. Suite 500 | Lansing, MI 48933
1-866-227-7448 | Fax: 517-482-2784 | TTY: 1-877-434-7598
aarp.org/mi | miaarp@aarp.org | twitter: @aarpmichigan
facebook.com/aarp.michigan

May 23, 2024

The Honorable Brenda Carter, Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Insurance and Financial Services

Re: AARP MI Testimony in Support of HB 4015, cap on insulin

Dear Chairwoman Carter and Committee Members,

On behalf of our 1.25 million members statewide, AARP Michigan is writing to support House Bill 4015, which would establish a \$50 cap on a 30 day supply of insulin.

Lowering the cost of prescription drugs is a high priority for AARP. According to a survey conducted by AARP in 2022, three in four Michiganders (75%) report taking prescription medications on a regular basis, and 58% cite not filling a prescription because of cost. Older adults are disproportionately affected by high prescription drug costs, with 40% taking five or more prescription drugs and nearly 20% taking ten or more. More than half (57%) of Michigan adults 50 and over are concerned they will not be able to afford prescription drugs over the next few years for themselves or their families.

Consumers have faced unfair drug prices for years, and the situation has only gotten worse. A recent report by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services noted that list prices on more than 1,200 prescription drugs rose faster than inflation, rising an average of 31.6%. The price of Januvia, a popular drug used to treat diabetes, has increased more than 275% since entering the market in 2006. AARP's RX Price Watch report found that in 2020, prices for 180 widely used specialty drugs increased more than three and a half times faster than general inflation. Furthermore, high drug costs hurt everyone: not only those who rely on prescription drugs for their health, but all of us who are paying higher premiums and out-of-pocket costs, as well as the taxpayers who fund public programs.

The current high cost of prescription drugs is outrageous and unsustainable, which is why Michiganders are demanding action. According to a survey conducted by AARP in November 2022, 77% of Michigan voters age 50+ support Michigan establishing a cap or limit to how much Michiganders must pay out of pocket for their prescription medications. Under House Bill 4015, the bill would create a \$50 cap on how much an insured individual would pay out of pocket for a 30-day supply of insulin.

We urge you to support House Bill 4015 to ensure that Michiganders can access and afford the medications they need -- because the best drugs in the world don't work if you can't afford to take them.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. If you have any questions or would like further information, please feel free to reach out to Melissa Seifert at mseifert@aarp.org or 517-316-6393.

Respectfully submitted,



Paula D. Cunningham
State Director



Lisa Dedden Cooper
Manager of Advocacy



Melissa Seifert
Associate State Director/Government Affairs