



In Opposition to SB 2031 relating to prescription drug reference rates

January 16, 2023

Madam Chair Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee:

On behalf of Americans for Prosperity – North Dakota, I urge you to reject SB 2031 and the introduction of prescription drug price controls. The adoption of this legislation will not result in the expected outcome. Instead, it will lead to additional red tape and bureaucracy that will limit North Dakotans' ability to get the medicines they need.

We ought to support efforts to decrease drug prices, while ensuring they remain readily available to those who need them. Price controls throughout history have had the opposite effect. We believe the American free market and the forces of competition and innovation will lower healthcare prices and increase accessibility. If SB 2031 is enacted, North Dakota would emulate Canada's socialist policies while failing to recognize that Canada already benefits from American innovation.

The COVID-19 pandemic showed us that unnecessary red tape and bureaucracy hinder medical professionals from providing the best care they can for patients. SB 2031 will do the same to North Dakota's prescription drug marketplace. By introducing anti-free market methods, you will be limiting future innovations in drug therapies. Consider the long-term results of an action like this, as pharmaceutical manufacturers consolidate, as less innovation occurs, as other states join this race to the bottom, and as North Dakotans never know what treatments might have come to market to provide hope and health when it is needed most.

Please consider the effects price controls would have on the North Dakota prescription drug market and its citizens. We ask you to reject SB 2031 on principle and instead embrace the principles that built our great nation.

Americans for Prosperity and our grassroots network of citizen advocates hope that you reject this anti-competitive policy.

Regards,

Andrew Nyhus

Americans for Prosperity North Dakota