

Representative:

My name is Frank Pagurko, and I write to you on behalf of the Rio Grande Foundation, an economic policy think tank based in Albuquerque. We work to promote the interests of the people of New Mexico through free market policy.

In the interest of everyone who lives and works in New Mexico, I strongly urge you to **vote NO** on HB 154, the Prescription Drug Affordability Act. While the reduction of drug costs is much needed, this bill would not accomplish that goal. The American healthcare and pharmaceutical markets are incredibly complicated, and simply capping prices ignores the myriad factors that determine drug prices. The creation of a new bureaucracy within the state government will only make it more difficult for manufacturers to provide New Mexicans with the pharmaceuticals they need at affordable costs. Many drug companies already offer substantial, easily accessible discounts on prescriptions through online coupons and rebate programs. These options can make it less expensive to pay for prescriptions with cash than to pay an insurance co-pay. The creation of price caps will encourage companies to end these programs, raising drug prices overall for New Mexico residents.

Please do not use the blunt instrument of arbitrary and bureaucratic price controls to fix the delicate issue of pharmaceutical costs. Please vote no on HB 154. Thank you.



Frank Pagurko III