

## **Transforming Healthcare Protections for All Pennsylvanians**

Healthcare should be affordable and accessible for every family. As your Representative, I will fight for practical solutions that reduce costs, increase transparency, and make sure our healthcare system works for the people of the 148th District.

- **Taking on powerful industry interests** – I support stronger oversight of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), cost transparency, and hospital consolidation that are all major drivers of rising costs.
- **Protecting Pennsylvanians from federal rollbacks** – With ACA protections under constant threat in Congress, I will work to codify pre-existing condition protections and anti-discrimination rules into Pennsylvania law as a future-proofing and proactive safeguard regardless of what happens in Washington.
- **Practical cost relief for families** – From price transparency so patients can compare costs before treatment, to expanding telemedicine for working families and rural communities, my focus is on tangible, near-term relief.

### **Lowering Healthcare Costs and Protecting Our Care**

Pennsylvanians' healthcare costs are rising too fast, and too many families are forced to choose between paying medical bills and meeting everyday needs. As your Representative for Pennsylvania's 148th District, I will work to make healthcare more affordable and accessible by increasing transparency, strengthening competition, and expanding access to care.

### **Bring Transparency and Competition to Healthcare Prices**

It shouldn't be a wild idea that Pennsylvanians deserve to know what healthcare services cost before they receive them. Yet, in our commonwealth that's not a guarantee. I will support legislation such as PA House Bill 1469 that requires hospitals and providers to clearly publish the prices of common services so patients can compare options and avoid surprise bills. Health consumers deserve this transparency.

We need to do better with how we handle prescription drug pricing in our Commonwealth. Reforming pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and increasing transparency in the drug supply chain can help lower out-of-pocket costs while supporting local pharmacies. I will join the current effort to give the Pennsylvania Attorney General the authority to review contract renewals and terminations with pharmacies. The PA Attorney General should then be given authority to pursue legal remedies against PBMs on behalf of the Commonwealth and its residents for improper decisions such as "Retaliatory Terminations" against independent pharmacies.

We need stronger oversight of hospital mergers and acquisitions that reduce competition and drive-up prices. I support legislation such as House Bill 1460, The Healthcare Protection Services Act, that seeks to increase the Attorney General's authority to review transactions involving for-profit entities, private equity firms, and real estate investment trusts. The bill allows the Attorney General

to block sales if they are deemed "against the public interest," which is defined to include significant decreases in competition, higher costs for patients, or reduced access to care.

### **Make Health Insurance and Care More Affordable**

Pennsylvania should take practical steps to lower costs for families with insurance and those seeking care. I support efforts to stabilize insurance premiums through Pennsylvania's health insurance marketplace and reinsurance programs that lower costs across the market. Since we have lost federal subsidies that provided relief for healthcare insurance costs, I will push to expand and properly fund The State Health Insurance Exchange Affordability Program, which currently gives Pennsylvanians some relief on the cost of health insurance. My goal is to ensure healthcare is affordable and remove the pressure that forces people to make impossible choices over life's basic necessities.

### **Invest in Access to Care**

We must protect patients by preserving key consumer protections in healthcare coverage, including protections for people with pre-existing conditions and limits on unfair coverage denials. While the Affordable Care Act has given consumers protection at the Federal level over such issues as discrimination in insurance coverage for those with pre-existing conditions, these protections have come under attack by Congress more than 70 times in the Republican's efforts to repeal them. I will fight to codify these safeguards under Pennsylvania law by supporting legislation such as HB 2564,

### **The Health Insurance Access Protection Act**

This is a challenge across the Commonwealth but the needs vary from urban to rural areas. We need smart and relevant solutions that meet the healthcare needs of all Pennsylvanians. Healthcare costs rise when people cannot access care close to home. Expanding telemedicine coverage can reduce costs and make healthcare more convenient for working families, rural communities, and vulnerable populations. I will support legislation such as HB 1590, which allows behavioral health services to be reimbursed when delivered outside the physical confines of a clinic via methods such as telehealth.

### **Smarter Policies That Save Money**

Other states have successfully reduced healthcare costs through policies such as healthcare spending benchmarks, limits on surprise facility fees, and caps on the cost of essential medications like insulin. Pennsylvania should learn from these successful approaches and adopt policies that work.