

NEW JERSEY STATE AFL-CIO

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June 30, 2006

Dear Members of the State Assembly:

**TESTIMONY OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE AFL-CIO IN
SUPPORT OF A-2537 (Greenstein):
Establishes New Jersey Prescription Drug Retail Price Registry in DHSS;
Requires Pharmacies to Compile Drug Retail Price Lists**

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO, on behalf of our more than 1,000 affiliates and one million members, respectfully urges Assembly members to once again support A-2537 when it comes before you for a vote today. This bill was approved by the Assembly earlier this month by a vote of 72-3-3 and is back before you to concur with the amendments made by the Senate.

There is no doubt that residents across our state are struggling to keep up with the rising costs of prescription drugs. While it has been said so many times it almost sounds like a cliché, the sad reality is that too often individuals are reducing their intake of vital prescription drugs because they can't afford the necessary dosage. In a state that so many pharmaceutical companies call home, this is simply unacceptable.

Establishing a prescription drug registry for the 150 most commonly used prescription drugs in New Jersey certainly will not solve all of the problems associated with prescription drug costs. In fact, this crisis has been exacerbated by our own federal government with the implementation of the costly, complicated and unpredictable Medicare Part D plan. However, combined with efforts by Governor Corzine and other New Jersey lawmakers to allow for the bulk purchasing of prescription drugs, and other initiatives, this registry undoubtedly will help pave the way to real reform in this arena.

We once again respectfully urge you to support this legislation today and help us and our allies in this fight to take some of the mystery out of prescription drug purchases and allow consumers to engage in competitive shopping for their drug purchases.

Sincerely,

Charles Wowkanech
President

Laurel Brennan
Secretary/Treasurer

CW:LB:jmn
OPEIU:153

"The Voice for Working Families in New Jersey"