The PHARMABRO Act

Generic and off-patent price gouging legislation in Illinois, 2018

State Rep. Will Guzzardi (IL-39)
Step 1: Research

- Learning about the Maryland legislation
- IL PIRG
- Maryland Initiative
- Coalition partners
Step 2: Bill Intro, Coalition Building
Step 3: The Political Argument
Step 4: House Committee

Idea for a name for HB 4900:

The Pharmaceutical and Health Affordability: Restrictions on Manufacturers' Amoral Behavior through Reasonable Oversight (PHARMABRO) Act

Dare you to do better?

Lawmaker Wants To Punish Price Gougers
A state lawmaker is pushing a measure that would crack down on drug manufacturers that unjustifiably raise the prices of generic prescription drugs.

chicago.cbslocal.com
Step 5: House Floor

After a grueling floor debate... the PHARMABRO Act passed the House! 65-38. On to the Senate!

#endpricegouging
Step 6: Road Blocks in the Senate

Additionally, John is a political advisor to many Illinois leaders including Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White, Illinois Senate President John Cullerton, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and many state senators and representatives. He previously
Circuit Court Strikes Blow to Maryland Drug Pricing Measure

By Thomas Sullivan — Last Updated May 11, 2018

On April 13, 2018, the United States of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit struck down the first-in-the-nation law aimed at lowering the price of off-patent or generic drugs. The Court, in a two-to-one ruling, stated the law is in violation of the Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution and therefore, is unconstitutional.

In 2017, Maryland became the first state to allow its attorney general to take legal action against drug companies after they increase the price of off-patent or generic drugs. The bill was passed by the Maryland legislature but became law without the signature of the state's governor, Larry Hogan. Hogan did not sign the legislation due to concerns that it was unconstitutional.
Lessons for Activists

- Build an inside-outside game
- Know your strengths
- Be prepared for their arguments
- Use the network!
- Could be a multi-year fight…
Thanks!

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