



[RunawayRx](#), a project of the California Association of Health Plans, highlights noteworthy articles and information on the acceleration of prescription drug pricing.

A new poll shows Americans overwhelmingly support drug price transparency and see it as an effective solution to lower drug costs. The findings were published amid alarming increases in specialty drug costs for taxpayer-funded CalPERS and a California Senate Health Committee informational hearing on recent price spikes for EpiPen. Powerful testimony from patients and consumers revealed the impact of rampant price increases on families and school districts as well as common tactics the pharmaceutical industry uses to keep costs high. This was in stark contrast to the empty chair reserved for EpiPen-maker Mylan NV, who declined the invitation to participate in the hearing.

[EpiPen Cost Being Criticized At State Senate Hearing](#)
September 29, 2016



“We believe that they don’t care about the folks in our community that are suffering that cannot afford such a drug. You have to be rich in order to live.”
– Sen. Isadore Hall

[State Lawmakers Hold Hearing on Effects of EpiPen Price Hike](#)
September 29, 2016



“Pharmaceutical companies are putting lives at risk by putting outrageous prices on their drugs.”

[State Senate Holds Hearing About Skyrocketing Price Of EpiPen](#)
September 29, 2016



“A local Senator says enough is enough when it comes to the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs, especially the EpiPen...”

“They have no competition. They have the patents and they have the ability to raise prices. Yes, everybody should have the ability to profit but not so much in gouging the consumer or the taxpayer.”
– Sen. Ed Hernandez

[Poll Finds Majority Of Americans Want Restraints On Drug Prices](#)
September 29, 2016 | By Jordan Rau



“An overwhelming majority of Americans favor government action to restrain prescription drug prices, according to a poll released Thursday.

“The poll found that three-quarters of Americans considered drug costs unreasonable...”

“Among the policy ideas the respondents were asked to consider, the most popular was requiring drug companies to explain how they set drug prices, with 86 percent support.”

[Specialty Drug Costs Soar 30% For California Pension Fund](#)
September 28, 2016 | By Chad Terhune



“Specialty drug costs jumped 30 percent last year to \$587 million for the California Public Employees’ Retirement System, one of the nation’s largest health care purchasers...”

“The new figures show just how much financial pressure many employers and government agencies face from rising drug costs and why it’s become such a hot topic in California politics and on the presidential campaign trail... “For the first time, CalPERS also reported spending data for drugs that are administered in physician offices and infusion centers without a prescription... Spending on those office-administered drugs climbed by 34 percent last year to \$343.7 million.”

RunawayRx project sheds light on the acceleration of prescription drug pricing and its impact on health care affordability, encouraging a route toward sustainable pricing. For more information, please visit [RunawayRx.org](#) or [@Runaway Rx](#).