



California State Senate Health Committee Chairman Ed Hernandez (D-West Covina) doubled down on his commitment to drug price transparency by introducing a new bill for the state's 2017-18 legislative session. The latest [data](#) demonstrating the problem with high priced drugs reveals that spending on prescription drugs increased by 9 percent in 2015. Sen. Hernandez championed similar legislation earlier this year, which nearly made it to the Governor's desk until the bill was pulled after some amendments weakened the bill's impact. Following are the details of the bill's announcement and what others have to say about the upcoming legislation.

DRUG PRICING TRANSPARENCY BILL REINTRODUCED FOR 2017-18 SESSION

Senator Ed Hernandez Office | December 5, 2016

"The skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs continue to be one of the biggest factors leading to rising insurance premiums in the state, impacting working Californians. This issue will not go away and the public deserves answers," said Senator Hernandez...

"Millions of Californians were granted access to coverage through the Affordable Care Act, but affordability remains a critical issue. While other sectors of the healthcare system have safeguards and transparency requirements in place with regards to cost drivers, the pharmaceutical industry has no such mechanisms in place, leading to often egregious and unsustainable increases in drug prices."

"I will continue fighting for accessible and affordable medications for all Californians. I look forward to working with my colleagues and stakeholders to ensure California can begin to reign in out-of-control prescription drug pricing."

Senator Ed Hernandez

PATIENT ADVOCATES HAIL NEW CALIFORNIA LEGISLATION ON PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICE TRANSPARENCY

Health Access | December 5, 2016

"Health Access California, the statewide health care consumer advocacy coalition, joined other consumer and labor advocates in hailing the introduction of SB17, new legislation to advance prescription drug pricing transparency, authored by Senator Ed Hernandez, the chair of the Senate Health Committee..."

"The public anger over skyrocketing prescription drug prices is not going away, and we are confident we will be able to make progress in the new year with new legislation here in California."

Anthony Wright, Health Access

"California can't allow unexplained price hikes of prescription drugs to continue to harm our health system and our families' finances," said Anthony Wright, executive director of Health Access California, co-sponsor of the new legislation with the California Labor Federation."

The California Association of Health Plans' RunawayRx project sheds light on the acceleration of prescription drug pricing and how it impacts health care affordability, encouraging a route toward sustainable pricing. For more information, please visit www.RunawayRx.org or follow us on Twitter at [@Runaway_Rx](https://twitter.com/Runaway_Rx).