



## **NEWS:**

# **New Law Could Lead to Lower Drug Prices**

**AUGUST 30, 2018** – Legislation that should help Delawareans get better deals on prescription drugs is now law.

Using Bayard Pharmacy in downtown Dover as a suitable venue, Gov. John Carney on Tuesday signed a new law allowing pharmacists to provide consumers with information that could lead to lower costs.

According to information supplied by the [Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association](#), pharmacy benefit managers' contracts with pharmacies usually contain a "gag clause" that prohibits pharmacists from disclosing information to their customers that could substantially reduce what they spend on prescription medications. For example, the organization notes that for many generic drugs, co-pays can often exceed the price of the medicine, making it more expensive than if the patient directly paid out-of-pocket and bypassed their insurance.

Among other things, Delaware's new law will allow pharmacists to discuss with consumers the retail price of a prescription drug; how much of that cost would be the responsibility of the consumer; and if there are cheaper, generic drugs available.

Bayard Pharmacy Manager Eric Mabus was among those praising the new statute. "We strive to provide the best consumer service we can, and the gag clause had limited what we could do," he said.

Gov. Carney said Delaware, along with the rest of the nation, is moving towards a consumer-driven health care system and that providing the transparency needed to make informed purchasing decisions is going to be essential to that transition.

The bipartisan measure was unanimously approved by the General Assembly. State Reps. Steve Smyk, R-Milton-Lewes, and Jeff Spiegelman, R-Clayton, were among the bill's co-sponsors.

According to the [National Conference of State Legislatures](#) at least 26 states have enacted laws prohibiting pharmacist gag clauses since the start of 2016.



State Rep. Steve Smyk