



Preserving Patient Access to Medicines Driving Competition and Savings

Patients win through lower costs and better health when they have access to safe and affordable medications. And generic drugs are the only health care segment that consistently lowers prices. These lower prices and savings come from head-to-head competition between multiple manufacturers producing the same medicines. Policymakers looking to address the high cost of prescription medications should focus on the drivers of high prices – brand drugs – not generics that increase patient access and reduce costs.

Numbers Don't Lie: Generics Lower Drug Spending while Brand and Specialty Drug Prices Drive Costs.

- **\$445 billion saved by patients and the U.S. health care system in 2023** through generics and biosimilars¹
- **90% of U.S. prescriptions are filled** with generic drugs. But those prescriptions accounted for only **13.1% of the country's spending** on prescription drugs. In other words, brand drugs represent only 10% of prescriptions filled but almost 87% of drug spending.
- **In 2023, the average out-of-pocket cost for a generic was \$7.05**, while the average out-of-pocket cost for a brand drug was nearly four times higher – at \$27.10
- **Use of biosimilars generated \$12.4 billion in savings in 2023**, evidence that biosimilars are delivering on their promise.
- The average sales price for a biosimilar is on average **40% less** than the brand price at the time of biosimilar launch.
- Most importantly, biosimilar medicines have increased U.S. patient access to care by more than **495 million days** of patient therapy – and have been used safely in more than 27 billion days of patient therapy.
- Safe and effective FDA-approved generics and biosimilars play a vital role in the health of patients and our nation.

¹ The U.S. Generic & Biosimilar Medicines Savings Report, 2024, <https://accessiblemeds.org/resources/blog/2024-savings-report>