


U.S.SENATOR


Debbie STABENOW


[Making Health Care Affordable](#)


The skyrocketing price of health care is costing Michigan jobs by making American businesses less competitive in the global marketplace. Rising health care costs are also driving up the price of insurance for everyone while adding to the growing number of uninsured here in Michigan and across the country.


Senator Stabenow has authored a six-point plan to make health care more affordable for Michigan businesses, workers & families:


 **Saving Lives and Saving Dollars.** The Stabenow-Snowe **HealthTech Act** (S. 1227) creates a \$4 billion competitive grant program and tax incentives to encourage hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, community health centers and physicians to invest in health IT. A Rand Corp. study shows that widespread use of health IT would save \$300 billion or even more over the next 15 years in health care costs while improving the quality of care for patients.

 **Lowering Prescription Drug Prices with Unadvertised Brands.** The Stabenow-Lott **Lower PRICED Drugs Act** (S. 2300) closes loopholes in the law that prevent or delay generic drugs from coming to the market. The bipartisan bill would increase the availability of generic drugs, thereby creating more competition and saving American consumers, manufacturers and taxpayers billions of dollars.

 **Creating Public/Private Partnerships to Fund Health Care.** The Stabenow **Keep America Competitive Act** provides a tax credit to help manufacturers cover the cost of their highest “catastrophic” cases. Additionally, her legislation provides tax incentives for employers to provide their employees with wellness policies to prevent and manage chronic conditions.

 **Making Health Care Affordable for Small Businesses.** The Stabenow **Health Care Access for Small Businesses Act** helps small businesses afford health care for their employees through “three share” programs. These innovative, community-based models split costs between employees, employers, and communities.

 **Safe Drug Re-importation from Canada.** Senator Stabenow is a co-author of the bipartisan **Pharmaceutical Market Access and Drug Safety Act** (S. 334) which allows the re-importation of FDA-approved prescription drugs, most of which are American-made, from Canada and other approved countries if they comply with strict FDA safety regulations.

 **Helping Michigan’s Automakers Keep Their Promise to Retirees.** In July, Senator Stabenow will introduce legislation for Michigan automakers who are doing the right thing— keeping their promise to their retirees— to help them remain globally competitive. This bill would give these manufacturers a tax credit to offset high legacy health care costs so that they can continue offering retiree benefits.