



Snohomish County Council

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Dave Gossett (425) 388-3494

Snohomish County Council Passes Enabling Legislation for Prescription Drug Card

The soaring cost of prescription drugs is taking its toll on families and individuals throughout Snohomish County. That's why Snohomish County acted today to establish a discount prescription drug program.

"The program will cost county taxpayers nothing and have no upfront charges for users," said Councilmember Dave Gossett, the sponsor of the legislation. "It will be available to anyone who lives or works in Snohomish County."

Gossett became interested in exploring a discount prescription drug card program when he learned of a pilot program being sponsored by the National Association of Counties (NACo). An active member of NACo, Gossett worked to make Snohomish County eligible for the program. Although State bidding rules require Snohomish County to ask for other proposals the NACo proposal will most certainly be one of the options Snohomish County will look at.

"We know the NACo program is available and what it provides," said Gossett. "In the first month of operation in a comparable county citizens saved nearly \$60,000 on prescription drugs. If those numbers hold true Snohomish County citizens could save between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 in the first year."

The county will review all proposals received and then award a contract some time in February. Prescription drug discount cards will be available after that.

"This is a great program for our citizens," said Gossett. "Those without insurance, seniors who need coverage Medicare doesn't provide, and small businesses struggling with insurance costs will all benefit. I'm looking forward to handing out that first card."