

Legislative Report
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Val Coluni

1. LEGISLATION: Prescription Drugs. There have now been several proposals in the General Assembly to reduce drug prices, some by our legislators and some others by the Federal administration members. These proposals cover a number of different options: let Medicare negotiate prices directly with the drug companies; let Americans import cheaper drugs from Canada; others favor letting the free market do their usual job: others favor Federal rules and regulations. These proposals will require SINCERE bi-partisanship efforts to resolve the significant differences in order to select one best solution and/or combining two or more alternatives. The drug companies have responded to some of the recommendations by stating "they have specific flaws which would "wreck havoc on our health care system as well as possibly limit access to some medicines and/or compromise safety standards." While these talks are going on some drug companies have recently raised prices. The average price bump for all has been estimated at 6.3% (percent) well above the pace of inflation. The Federal Administration claims drug prices declined in 2018. Looking at the whole of America's prescription drug market many of the experts in the field state their numbers are not accurate. AARP wants results now and to help get there they have instituted an advocacy campaign to protect seniors and remind all that all parties to this issue have made past promised to do just that. Again, we need your support to get behind this effort by calling your representatives now!! The General Assembly is in a short session this year so don't delay.

2. LEGISLATION: SCHOOLS (Repairs, modernizing, new construction) There now appears to be agreement in the General Assembly and in the Governor's Office that this is a crisis and requires significant action by all. The urgent needs are in some of the larger cities and in rural areas. Prior financial estimates were that \$18 billion dollars was required to adequately fix the problems. That estimate was made in 2008 and in prior years when this subject was on the to do list of some of our government officials. Now one additional problem has come-out and is resulting in a political battle between the Attorney General (Herring) and one of our Senator (Bill Stanley) WHO is responsible for paying these expenses?? The Attorney General says they are the responsibility of the Regional and Local communities. He points to a State Account (Priority Account) that was set-up to do this. Senator Stanley responds that this account was never funded adequately to handle such large expenses. And today many of these communities are prior coal producing areas which are now "sick, broke and have been left behind" by their government. In addition, the Senator believes that these conditions hinder our State economic efforts to attract new employers to our State and to motivate our current employers to stay here and expand their operations. A final note in his argument is that these conditions could be used to charge us with violating Federal laws and regulations which require states to insure that the conditions of the school's physical plants must not deny students an equal opportunity for a quality education.