



**Chris Danou's Capitol Report**  
After 13 Years SeniorCare Still Going Strong

Wisconsin has a proud tradition of providing affordable health care services through programs like SeniorCare. This innovative and cost-effective prescription drug assistance program for Wisconsin residents who are 65 years of age or older has saved taxpayers money since 2001.

Like most programs, there are eligibility requirements and levels of coverage that are based on annual income. Since its creation, the program has helped seniors by making prescription drugs much more affordable. In that time, SeniorCare has become a popular alternative to Medicare Part D that helps around 85,000 seniors every year with most participants saving hundreds of dollars each year by utilizing SeniorCare's prescription drug benefits instead of those under Medicare Part D.

SeniorCare saves people money because it negotiates the lowest prices for prescription drugs, something the federal government cannot do. The program is a great alternative to Medicare Part D because it has a simple enrollment process, a \$30 annual enrollment fee, income-based deductibles and \$5 co-pays for generic medications. The bargaining process has been so effective that a difference of around \$90 million has been realized in annual savings. This is good news financially, but it's also the right thing to do because it truly helps our aging population.

While all of this seems like an obvious "win-win" for Wisconsin and seniors, it baffles me that the Governor has tried to eliminate SeniorCare two times in the past four years. Each time, Democrats in the Wisconsin State Assembly have organized a "Save SeniorCare" petition drive in which thousands of people from across the state rose up and fought to continue SeniorCare in Wisconsin. With a large display of public support, it became clear to the Governor and the Republican leadership that people value this program, and ultimately, SeniorCare was saved. However, we never should've been in that position either time and it's very troubling that the Governor and Republican leadership would try to save money on the backs of seniors.

While Wisconsin is lagging behind other Midwestern states in access to affordable health care, SeniorCare is one example of something we're doing to make sure more people can obtain the prescriptions they need at an affordable price. Health care costs can put a serious financial stress on seniors, and if we can help them save money on their prescriptions, we not only have a financial incentive, but we also have an obligation to do so. Not only is that responsible governing and fiscal policy, it's the right thing to do.

I'm glad we can celebrate thirteen years of this great program that has, and will continue to help seniors afford their prescriptions across Wisconsin. If you have any questions about the program, how to enroll, or want more information, please feel free to call 1-800-657-2038 or visit <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/seniorcare/index.htm>.

