



STAT facts

HEALTH CARE WORKERS COUNCIL OF THE UNITED STEELWORKERS

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In the News:

Health Committee Cheers Idea of National Pharmacare Program

Canadians would be healthier and better served with a publicly funded, universal pharmacare program, the House of Commons health committee this week declared.

Their report, *Pharmacare Now: Prescription Medicine Coverage for all Canadians*, was the result of two years of work and interviews with 99 witnesses.

Too many Canadians, the committee found, are forgoing needed medications because they cannot afford them.

Health care advocacy groups are calling for the immediate implementation of the recommendations. Instead, the report will now go to an advisory group, chaired by former Ontario health minister Eric Hoskins.

To read more, [click here](#).

Tell Us Your Stories!

Has your local done something outstanding? Have you had a great solidarity action? Done something huge to help your community? Made significant connections with other labor groups? Is your Women of Steel or Next Gen committee making waves?

Tell us about it!

Contact Jess Kamm Broomell at

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Can Triage Nurses Help Prevent 911 Overload?

Washington, D.C., has the highest rate of 911 calls in the country, but 1 in 4 of them is not a true emergency, writes Selena Simmons-Duffin for NPR. Instead, they're more general medical problems, like a twisted ankle, cough or rash.

Now, a new program that pairs triage nurses with 911 dispatchers is working to reduce the strain on first responders and connect patients who need non-emergency care with same-day appointments with doctors or clinics.

One of the keys to making the program successful is that

triage nurses can also coordinate free Lyft rides for people on Medicaid, including a stop at a pharmacy if needed.

This lifts the burden of transportation for people who cannot make it to a doctor's office on their own, while freeing up ambulances for more pressing cases.

Proponents of the program, which has taken two years to develop, hope it will lower costs and improve patient care.

To read the full article, [click here](#).



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