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Knol defines health care vision

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Republican candidate Valerie Knol for the state House seat that represents Farmington/Farmington Hills held another series of her Valerie's Vision with members of the American House nursing home in Farmington Hills Wednesday. She was flanked by U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg and Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, both Republicans.

Knollenberg touted a medication plan that offers seniors a solid choice to use their own health plan or one that can be subsidized.

Patterson urged the residents at American House to shoot down Proposal 4 in the November general election, saying it would cut \$21 million to Oakland County in state shared revenues.

Knol announced her stand on health care issues, pointing out making prescription drug costs affordable is a personal issue, considering the 32-year-old has parents in their 70s.

She said she supports securing additional funds through federal programs such as the Medicaid Pharmacy Plus Waiver Program.

Knol said she supports the Midwest initiative that invites neighboring states to join Michigan in buying prescriptions by bulk to decrease costs.



Sharing her vision for health care issues, Republican House candidate Valerie Knol spoke at a press conference this week.

By lowering the cost of pharmaceuticals by just 3 percent, the Michigan Department of Community Health would save \$30 million on its approximately \$1 billion annual expense for prescription drugs, she stated.

The candidate also said tax credits for employers offering health insurance will help more employers insure their employees. Another possibility to help the uninsured is give tax credits

to individuals who purchase his or her own health insurance, she said.

The candidate also supports long-term care insurance so individuals of all incomes feel secure about their long-term care needs and she stands for MICHild that offers insurance for children of working families.

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Vagnozzi says prescription drug coverage is going to the dogs

Democrat Aldo Vagnozzi, who is running for the 37th District state House seat, held a press conference last Thursday to voice his concern about the state's failure in providing consumers relief from the high cost of prescription drugs.

Using examples from a report issued by the state House that showed drug manufacturers charged humans

sometimes as much as 415 percent more than animals for the same drugs, Vagnozzi quipped, "Michigan's prescription drug coverage is going to the dogs."

He brought in some families with their dogs to make his point at his campaign headquarters.

His plan would include: ■ Instituting the Drug Fair Pricing Act. This would allow

the state to use its bulk purchasing power and form consortiums with other states to buy prescription drugs at a discount and then pass the savings on to Michigan consumers.

■ Passing PharmGap, which would provide a 50 percent discount on all out-of-pocket prescription drug costs to people over the age of 60.

by staff writer Paul Pace

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