

House Joint Memorial 14

Sponsored by Representative BUCKLEY

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Urges Congress to enact legislation permitting negotiation of drug prices and rebates on behalf of Medicare recipients.

JOINT MEMORIAL

To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

We, your memorialists, the Seventy-seventh Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas the rising cost of health care in the United States is a major driver for budgets at the national, state and household levels; and

Whereas the cost of prescription medications is a major contributor to health care cost increases; and

Whereas prescription drug companies in the United States receive the benefit of special patent protections and prohibitions against the reimportation of less expensive prescriptions available in other countries, including Canada; and

Whereas in the United States, unlike in many other countries in the world, prescription drug companies are permitted to engage in extensive direct-to-consumer marketing; and

Whereas private consumers and publicly funded health care programs in the United States pay more for prescription medications than those in any other country in the world; and

Whereas although federal agencies such as the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and the Indian Health Service are permitted to negotiate with prescription drug companies for drug rebates, such negotiation on behalf of Medicare recipients is prohibited; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

(1) The Congress of the United States of America is respectfully urged to enact legislation permitting the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate drug prices and rebates for Medicare recipients.

(2) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.