

March 13, 2015

Chair Mitch Greenlick
House Healthcare Committee
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Greenlick:

Hello, my name is Chuck Goldberg. I am a family practitioner M.D. in Portland, focusing primarily on preventive medicine, immunology, dermatology and fitness. I have been in practice now for over 30 years. I am writing to urge your support of House Bill 3486.

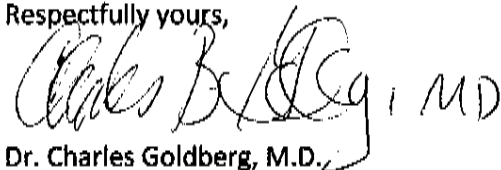
As someone who has spent his entire professional life working to serve the best interests of my patients, I of course believe that quality, affordable and accessible care is of paramount importance. Along these lines, patient access to appropriate pharmaceutical therapies is also of paramount importance. These drugs in many cases can mean the difference between life and death, and certainly affect the quality and productivity of patients' lives.

However, uncertainty around the rapidly growing costs of many of today's specialty pharmaceuticals may place patients and appropriate treatments at risk. The challenge is that the general lack of transparency around the true costs of today's pharmaceuticals may lead to contortions within health plans and general health coverage. The bottom line is that no one benefits when treatment costs are unknown, or when cost components of therapies are shielded or withheld – whether consciously or not.

HB 3486 is a positive step to mitigating those risks. It simply asks that the costs of pharmaceuticals be reported to the Oregon Health Authority. With this, patients and providers will have a clear look at medical cost components, and be better equipped to manage all facets of comprehensive healthcare. It will help patients and providers as we navigate the world of health plans, premiums and formularies.

HB 3486 is a good bill, and it is a necessary bill. I urge your support.

Respectfully yours,



Dr. Charles Goldberg, M.D.

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