



February 22, 2017

Honorable Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson  
Chair  
Senate Committee on Health Care  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Urging Support for SB 272—Prescription Coverage Transparency and Continuity of Care

Dear Chair Monnes Anderson,

ICAN, the International Cancer Advocacy Network, strongly supports SB 272 to provide greater transparency in prescription drug coverage, and ensure continuity of care for patients fighting lethal and chronic diseases. We urge all members of the Senate Committee on Health Care, and all members of the Senate, to support SB 272 throughout the legislative process.

ICAN is a Phoenix-based, five-star rated 501(c)(3) charitable cancer patient advocacy organization. Our primary mission is helping Stage IV cancer patients in Oregon, throughout the United States, and around the world. We deal daily with the frustrations that accompany desperate patients trying to find the right drugs that can extend their lives or improve their quality of life.

SB 272 will bring much needed clarity and simplification for patients when making coverage choices. Choosing plans is difficult enough, and choosing plans when prescription drug coverage is a key part of a patient's health needs is particularly difficult. SB 272 will make it much more understandable for patients to choose the right plan for their needs.

Further, SB 272 brings welcome changes to reduce, limit, or stop some of the most pernicious practices that are currently allowed such as changes in coverage and price increases during the year.

In addition to causing unnecessary expense and confusion for a patient, it is also essential that continuity of care be preserved for the health of the patient. Allowing mid-year switching of drugs that a doctor has prescribed and wants the patient to take is a practice that must be stopped.

For patients dealing with cancer or other chronic diseases, finding “the right drug” for relief, treatment, or cure, can be a long struggle. When such a drug is found, the last thing that should happen is to make it unavailable by allowing mid-year switching.

To delay the optimal treatment for any patient is wrong. To do it to a patient fighting a lethal disease, such as Stage IV cancer, is simply cruel beyond belief.

Codifying these critical patient protections into Oregon state law is the right thing to do.

Please let patients and doctors fighting cancer and other diseases fight illness, not insurance companies.

Thank you for your consideration and for doing all you can do to advance SB 272 through the legislative process.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marcia K. Horn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marcia" being the most prominent part.

Marcia K. Horn, J.D.  
President and CEO  
International Cancer Advocacy Network (ICAN)  
27 West Morten Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85021-7246  
602-618-0183 (phone)  
602-926-8109 (fax)  
[www.askican.org](http://www.askican.org)  
[marcia@askican.org](mailto:marcia@askican.org)

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care