

**House Committee on Health Care
Public Hearing on House Bill 2387
March 3, 2017**

My name is Charles B. Goldberg, MD. I have been a family practitioner for more than 30 years and proudly serve community patients at Sellwood Medical Clinic North in Portland. In addition to family medicine, I also maintain a strong focus in immunology, which was among my specialties while in residency.

I want to extend my thanks to Chairman Greenlick and the distinguished members of the House Committee on Health Care for the opportunity to provide written testimony about House Bill 2387.

As a medical doctor, Family Physician and primary care provider, I write today in opposition to HB 2387, which is under consideration by the House Committee on Health Care in today's hearing. Although this legislation has been presented as a vehicle for increased transparency and cost containment, both of which are goals worthy of legislative work, this bill is clearly not the answer.

This legislation's linkage to "foreign price caps" is convoluted at best. Trying to manage transfers of "excess costs" from manufacturers to payers may prove to be an administrative nightmare and is likely unworkable. It is also difficult to see how taking from one industry and giving to another will do anything directly for patients and the costs that patients incur. After more than 30 years of practice, I can think of many ways to improve health care outcomes; transferring more money to the insurance industry is not one of them.

However, my primary concern is the chilling effect this legislation could have on pharmaceutical sales and distribution here in Oregon. Given the already difficult-to-understand price restrictions currently placed on drugs prescribed through Medicare and Medicaid, even more pharmaceutical companies may opt out of selling into commercial plans in Oregon to avoid the possibility of forcing lower prices nationally. Whatever litigation may ensue, it will not be to the benefit of patients.

Our patients rely on appropriate care and treatment, including proper and affordable prescription pharmaceuticals for conditions such as diabetes, arthritis, MS and cancer. The chief priority for every physician is the patient wellness through healing and prevention. Unfortunately, HB 2387 is contrary to the needs of patients and the mission of physicians.

I know that the Oregon legislature has no interest in creating undue risk or more uncertainty for these patients, and that is why I am asking you to oppose HB 2387.

Thank you for your time.

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