



**Tom Chamberlain**, *President*  
**Barbara Byrd**, *Secretary-Treasurer*

3645 SE 32nd Ave,  
Portland, OR 97202  
[www.oraficio.org](http://www.oraficio.org)

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503-232-1195

[afl-cio@oraficio.org](mailto:afl-cio@oraficio.org)

**TO:** Chair Greenlick  
Vice-Chair Hayden  
Vice- Chair Nosse  
Members of the House Committee on Healthcare

**FR:** Jessica Giannettino, Oregon AFL-CIO

**RE: Support for HB 2387**

March 2, 2017

The Oregon AFL-CIO represents 300,000 working Oregonians and is a voice for all workers in the legislative process. Prescription drug prices are one of the fastest growing cost drivers of the health care system and hardworking Oregon families are dealing with that impact. Workers are paying more at the pharmacy, consumers have higher insurance premiums, employers are having to cut benefits and state budgets are squeezed.

The high price of prescription drugs is threatening every health care budget in the state – both in the public and private sectors. Regardless of what changes occur at the federal level, Oregon has the opportunity to curb this trend and we encourage your support for HB 2387. Unaffordable and unpredictable prescription drug prices affect everyone. PEBB and OEBC's pharmaceutical costs are outstripping medical inflation for health care benefits for teachers, firefighters and other public employees and overall pharmaceutical costs for PEBB have grown 34% over the last two years.

HB 2387 provides the following avenues of relief:

- **Brings down out-of-pocket consumer costs**
- **Requires pharmaceutical manufacturers to be transparent: report cost and justify prices**
- **Holds the pharmaceutical industry accountable for prices that exceed a fair rate of return**

**The Oregon AFL-CIO, and workers around the state, urge your support for HB 2387.**