



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

3645 SE 32nd Ave,
Portland, OR 97202
www.orafcio.org

503-232-1195

aff-cio@orafcio.org

TO: Chair Monnes Anderson
Vice-Chair Kruse
Members of the Senate Committee on Healthcare

FR: Jessica Giannettino, Oregon AFL-CIO

RE: Support for SB 792 and SB 793

March 9, 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 Oregonian families are dealing with that impact. Workers are paying more at the pharmacy and are having to balance higher insurance premiums, while employers are being forced to cut benefits and state budgets are being squeezed.

The high price of prescription drugs is threatening every health care budget in the state--public and private. Regardless of what changes occur at the federal level, Oregon has the opportunity to curb this trend and we encourage your support for SB 792 and SB 793. Unaffordable and unpredictable prescription drug prices affect everyone. PEBB and OEBS's pharmaceutical costs are outstripping medical inflation for health care benefits for teachers, firefighters and other public employees. Pharmaceutical costs for PEBB have grown 34% over the last two years.

- **SB 792 and SB 793 provide transparency and increase protections for workers and their families by:**
 - **Requiring a basic justification for marked price increases on drugs that have been on the market for years**
 - **Compelling companies to disclose the list price of pharmaceuticals in advertising; therefore, empowering workers and their families with more knowledge about the drug sooner**

The Oregon AFL-CIO urges your support for SB 792 and SB 793.