

# SHOC

SHERIE HILDRETH OVARIAN CANCER  
FOUNDATION

February 1, 2018

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ASHLEY HILDRETH  
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Director

MICHAEL ENGLISH, CPA  
Director

DR. PAUL TSENG  
Medical Director

The Honorable Peter Courtney  
900 Court St. NE, S-201  
Salem, Oregon 97301

The Honorable Tina Kotek  
900 Court St. NE, Rm. 269  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear President Courtney and Speaker Kotek:

I am writing to share our concerns regarding HB 4005.

My family founded the Sherie Hildreth Ovarian Cancer (SHOC) Foundation in the spring of 2005 roughly six months after my late wife, Sherie, was diagnosed with stage III ovarian cancer. We learned that the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) had a laboratory specializing in gynecologic cancers. At that time, there were no organizations delivering continual funding to this lab. It became our mission to form a foundation to fund ovarian cancer research.

We are a multifaceted fund-raising organization. In our 12 years, SHOC has donated \$900,000 to the Gynecologic Cancer Lab at the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU). We also work to increase public awareness about the disease and connecting survivors with the resources to assist them on their journey.

We are concerned that HB 4005 might impede the necessary and innovative work being done at the Gynecologic Cancer Lab and other small research outfits throughout the state. A significant portion of research and development is done by individual scientists, academic researchers, and small venture-backed companies. In most early stages of research, scientists investigate broad categories of molecules, painstakingly separating those that might be fruitful to further research from the vast majority that will not. These proposed reporting requirements would force researchers and scientists to incorporate burdensome accounting measures into their laboratory practices. We should let the scientists focus on their area of expertise. It is our concern that this will divert researchers' precious time away from innovation in favor of compliance. That diversion may lead to delays in the next discovery that can help us beat cancer.

The benefits of medical innovation for patients and our society are clear. The benefits for patients in HB 4005 are not. Yes, drug prices must be addressed. However, HB 4005, like HB 2387 before it, misunderstands the factors—and



stakeholders—that contribute to prescription drug costs. High drug costs are not the responsibility of one actor alone. Yet the legislation, in choosing to focus on only one part of the equation, does not capture this complexity, or consider the out-of-pocket costs that are of most interest to patients; costs that are determined by the insurance plan rather than the manufacturer.

So, what will Oregonians get with HB 4005? It seems to us that the bill will deliver an incomplete picture as to the cost drivers of drugs. The tangible benefits patients might expect in terms of improved outcomes or increased affordability should HB 4005 pass are unclear.

For those reasons, along with the potential impediment this bill might impose on the important medical research being done here in Oregon, we encourage your opposition to HB 4005.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Sherie Hildreth'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

cc:

The Honorable Ginny Burdick  
The Honorable Jackie Winters  
The Honorable Mike McLane  
The Honorable Jennifer Williamson  
The Honorable Laurie Monnes Anderson  
Joint Ways and Means Committee Members