



Chair Greenlick, Vice Chairs Hayden and Nosse, members of the committee.

Oregon AFSCME represents 27,000 workers statewide who see the impact of high healthcare costs on a daily basis. We testified in support of prescription drug transparency last session and were sad to see that no compromise could be found on this important issue. We know that prescription drug cost is one of the fastest growing and largest cost drivers in the health care system.

We need to take measurable steps to try and bring some information and transparency around sky rocketing prescription drug prices before it gets worse. Last session we testified that the cost of prescription drugs are tearing a hole in the corrections budget. In recent years we have seen high increases with one prescription that cost up to \$70,000 per inmate for a 12 week treatment. This issue will continue to grow if we don't address it now.

We strongly support the proposal brought forward to this committee today. We see a direct nexus between large budget cost drivers and the increase in prescription drug prices. Between 2008 and 2015, there was a 1000% increase in over 400 generic drugs. This unsustainable growth is tearing apart our local county and city budgets and putting an extreme strain on our healthcare system.

Finally, we support these efforts because we need to look at ways to keep costs down for our member's healthcare without rolling back the benefits they have earned. If we are able to better understand the growth then we may be able to better react to market fluctuation. This is why we also strongly support the 60 day notice provision. We need to make sure people making plan decisions are given enough time to make calculated choices that benefit their plans.

For these reasons, and many others that will be highlighted today, AFSCME Council 75 strongly encourages this committee to pass House Bill 4005 out of committee.

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