

**Oregon State Legislature
House Health Care Committee
Consideration of HB 4005
February 5, 2018**

Chair Greenlick and members of the committee --

On behalf of the Rheumatoid Arthritis Support Group of Central Oregon, we urge opposition to HB 4005. The bill purports to address prescription drug prices, but it will do nothing to reduce the cost of drugs for patients dealing with chronic diseases.

HB 4005 would require biopharmaceutical companies to disclose certain pricing information to the State of Oregon every year as part of a policy promoting transparency. The problem is the policy only addresses one portion of the drug supply chain. There are a number of cost drivers at work, but the other ones – Pharmacy Benefit Managers and insurance carriers – will remain non-transparent. The notion that we will go through a big legislative exercise to shine light on one portion of drug costs is silly; let's have all of it disclosed so we can see where all the money is going.

While there are examples of excessive drug costs that should be investigated and corrected, the idea that drugs are the primary driver of healthcare costs is not borne out by facts. Government projections actually show that other healthcare services – long-term care, hospitalization and provider services – are the biggest part of increasing system costs. If more administrative laws get layered onto biopharmaceutical companies, however, those costs could easily outpace other elements of drug price inflation. It's important to note that much of what HB 4005 is asking for is already disclosed by companies to the federal government.

People living with chronic diseases like rheumatoid arthritis are more concerned about what *they* pay for a drug, rather than the overall cost. Unfortunately, when shopping for insurance products it's difficult or impossible to understand what a drug will cost under any given insurance plan. Worse, insurance carriers can currently – and often do – switch drug coverage during the middle of a plan year to make it more expensive. When you're on a fixed income, not being able to plan for the cost of an essential drug is devastating. If the committee wants to do something to help patients, we'd recommend addressing concerns that patients actually have about drug coverage and cost.

Thank you for your attention to our views.

Sincerely,

Alyce Jantzen

RASGCO