



TO: The Oregon House Committee on Health Care
FR: Basic Rights Oregon
DA: February 5, 2018
RE: Testimony in Support of HB 4005

Chair Greenlick and members of the committee,

Basic Rights Oregon urges your support for legislation this session, including HB 4005, that would address the high cost of prescription drugs.

Basic Rights Oregon works to ensure that all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer Oregonians experience equality. Increasing access to quality, affordable healthcare is a key part of our mission. In Oregon, we are remaking our healthcare system for better health, better care and lower costs. But the high price of prescription drugs is threatening every health care budget in the state--public and private. Unaffordable and unpredictable prescription drug prices affect everyone, including members of the LGBTQ community.

When medication prices can skyrocket overnight at rates far above inflation, patients are left wondering why. HB 4005 will finally shed some light on what is behind steep price increases on prescription drugs by requiring drug and insurance companies to be transparent about drug prices and their effect on premiums.

Transparency in drug pricing is an essential first step in understanding and addressing this critical issue. Prescription drugs save lives and improve the quality of life for millions of Oregonians. But too many people can't afford their medications and are forced to take reduced dosages, cut pills in half, or make hard choices between medicine or rent or food.

We hope that you will join us in support of legislation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is "J. M. Haque" and the second is "Amy Herzfeld-Copple".

Nancy Haque & Amy Herzfeld-Copple
Co-Executive Directors