

TO: The Oregon House Committee on Health Care
FR: Debbie Gehlken, Newport, Oregon
DA: Feb. 5, 2018
RE: Testimony in support of House Bill 4005

Dear Representatives,

I hope you will pass HB 4005 and pass it quickly.

My insulin – which is manufactured in California - costs about a third of the price in Canada than it does at my pharmacy down the street here in Newport.

I have been using this medication for more than 15 years to treat type 2 diabetes and during that time the price has continued to go up with no explanation, no justification.

Even with the cheaper Canadian prices, I pay \$95.35 per vial for Lantus. Each vial lasts me about twelve days. While that price is a significant savings from the \$260.28 I would pay in Oregon, it is still a large expense out of my household income, and it is much more expensive than it used to be.

I know people who cannot afford their insulin at all, so they go without at great risk to their health.

HB 4005 will require pharmaceutical companies to be transparent about their price increases and offer at least some explanation as to why prices for essential medications like insulin keep going up year after year. This is essential information so that we can start to grapple with high drug prices and come together for solutions. Without HB 4005, the pharmaceutical industry will continue price gouging, unchecked and unaccountable to Oregonians like me who are paying too high a cost just to stay healthy.

Thank you.