

February 5, 2018

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

I am writing to share my concerns with HB 4005.

As I understand it, this is legislation designed to increase transparency for drug costs. I am concerned that this will not achieve this goal.

I have lived with atopic dermatitis or eczema for many years. It is a chronic disease that can cause extreme discomfort and, depending on the scale and location outbreak, can lead to social discomfort/anxiety as well. While there is no cure, medical innovation has led to advanced treatments though biologic/biosimilar drugs that have vastly improved my life and the lives of others from whom topical treatments do not suffice.

My disease is managed, and I consider my life fairly normal despite knowing that my disease is only in check, not beaten. That is why I will continue to be an ardent support of medical innovation. I know what medical advancement has meant for my life and I understand what it has meant for other chronic conditions that can be terminal. We must continue to move forward, and it is imperative that any policy passed promotes medical innovation. HB 4005, through its arbitrary reporting demands that seem to target drug researchers/manufactures while leaving insurance companies and PBMs harmless, seems to throw a bit of a wrench in the works.

As a user of expensive medications, I know that manufacturers are but one piece of the pricing puzzle. Medicines are not the dominant driver of health spending growth as they are often assumed to be. In fact, government projections show the majority of healthcare spending over the next 10 years will be distributed among other healthcare services, such as long-term care, hospitalization and provider services, which is projected to be five times total medicine spending growth through the next decade. Furthermore, I know that insurance companies have a large role as to what I pay out of pocket. Where is their accountability in this bill?

I believe the intention of this legislation is sound but it is a flawed vehicle. I urge a no vote.

Sincerely,

David R. Paul

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

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David R. Paul  
805 S.E. 30th ave Portland OR  
Cell: (503)-764-8355 | Home: (503)-235-2335