

Help Us Solve  
The Cruel Mystery  
**LUPUS**<sup>TM</sup>  
FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

February 5, 2018

State Rep. Mitch Greenlick  
Chair, House Health Care Committee  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street, NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Greenlick:

Improving patient access to innovative, affordable medications is one of the most important missions of our organization. Breakthrough treatments have allowed patients living with life-threatening or chronic diseases to get back to what's important to them personally: improving their quality of life, spending time with family, and engaging their passions in life.

When considering whether to support or oppose legislation, we embrace some basic principles:

- Will the legislation drive down the cost of medication for patients at the counter?
- Will it provide insurance coverage certainty so patients don't live in fear of cancellation or dramatic co-payment increases?
- Will it bring us closer to the next cure for deadly or chronic diseases?

HB 4005 fails each of these tests. While we are extremely frustrated by stories about price increases for some drugs or industry bad actors, it makes no sense to dedicate so much political discourse on controversial legislation that will do nothing to help patients.

In addition, HB 4005's transparency provisions only apply to one element of the cost of drugs: pharmaceutical companies. Yet Pharmacy Benefit Managers, insurance companies, and others in the supply chain add to the cost and absorb much of the negotiated discounts and rebates. What about the patient? HB 4005 provides no transparency to the other drivers that comprise the cost of medicine at the counter. At best, if enacted, HB 4005 would peel back half a curtain on drug prices.

We encourage the Oregon State Legislature to do one of two things: (1) focus on enacting legislation that will reduce drug costs and provide certainty around drug coverage, or (2) draft a bill that provides true and comprehensive transparency on the total price of drugs.

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We thank you for your service and stand ready to work with you to enact new policy that will truly help patients suffering from life-threatening and chronic diseases.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wilma Comenat". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Wilma Comenat  
Regional Director, PNW Region

Cc: House Health Care Committee members