

February 7, 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

President Courtney and Speaker Kotek:

My name is Travis Merritt and I am writing to urge your opposition to HB 4005.

I am currently pursuing a law degree at Willamette University College of Law where I am a source and cite editor on the Willamette Law Review and where I serve as President of the Health Law & Policy Society (HeLPS). Prior to law school I earned a Medicine Degree and a Master's of Public Health Policy.

Before law school, I worked in an academic medical research laboratory where I developed an understanding and appreciation for the ways in which policy can impact medical innovation. I plan to use a combination of my medical, scientific, and legal knowledge in my future career as an attorney and it is through that lens that I see flaws in HB 4005 as a policy vehicle.

While transparency is a critical component to good policy-making, HB 4005's transparency is selective and narrow. The mandated disclosure of proprietary information by life science companies would neither benefit patients nor decrease healthcare costs. There exists a widespread lack of transparency throughout the drug supply chain, this bill omits other actors and valuable

insight into rebate revenues paid to insurers and where this money goes. This bill is targeting one part of the chain while holding harmless the insurance companies and PBMs who are active supporters of this bill.

Medicines are not the dominant driver of health spending growth, even though 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.

While there are existing regulations and information available on drug prices, rebates, and earnings; adequate cost controls are lacking, and this proposed legislation would not adequately address that issue. This proposed legislation has incomplete transparency requirements, and lacks logical cost controls. Therefore, it is doubtful that the proposed legislation would bring about its stated goals.

I believe in policies that will increase the affordability of and access to medications but believe that there are ways to do that without threatening medical innovation in Oregon. HB 4005 does not meet the test and I respectfully ask for you to oppose this bill.

Sincerely,

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**Travis Merritt**

*Second Year Source and Cite Editor, Willamette Law Review*  
*President, Willamette Health Policy and Law society*

Willamette College of Law  
JD anticipated 2019

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