



From The Desk Of  
Representative Caddy McKeown  
2/28/2018

## **AARP Oregon urges a YES vote on HB 4005A for Prescription drug price transparency**

AARP Oregon supports HB 4005A. In the absence of federal action on this important issue, Oregon needs to blaze a trail to help our citizens afford lifesaving and life-improving medications that are out of reach of so many, whether or not they have insurance.

This is an issue that AARP knows is critically important to all Americans, but especially to the many people over 50 who depend on prescription drugs to keep them healthy and who've been devastated by the price increases we've seen in recent years.

We asked our members how the price of prescription drugs has affected them, and here are some of their responses:

"My insulin went from \$75 for a 90 day supply to over \$350 and I have 2 types so I'm roughly paying \$700 for insulin for 90 days. This is a big hardship, who has that kind of money? I'm also on 8 other medications and their costs have risen as well. With the high cost of food and having to be on a special diet, I really have a tight budget and sometimes I have to choose what to buy in the choice of prescription or food. No steaks here! (Heck, lucky if I can get ground beef)" – Mary C., Sandy

"I have had to split my pills in half in order to afford them." –Mark W., Corvallis

"My son has applied for food stamps to help offset the cost of his insulin. He has slept on the friends sofas, in the floor in the corner of my bedroom, and rotated between relatives in order to pay for insulin and diabetes supplies. As he once told his grandmother, he is the only young man he knows that needs to budget 50-75% of his take home pay just to stay alive - before he figures out how to pay for food, rent, and utilities." –Kimberley B., Beaverton

"On two occasions I have not been able to get the medication prescribed by my doctor due to cost. I have had to get a lesser medication that is less effective over a period of time." Gerard S., Coos Bay

"I have been given prescriptions that are over \$350 a month which I cannot afford and still be able to live. We are on Medicare and Social Security with a small pension and are barely able to pay our bills." –Susan H., Redmond

**On behalf of our 500,000+ members in Oregon who can't wait,  
AARP Oregon urges you to vote YES on HB 4005A for Rx price transparency.**