



The Oregon Nurses Associations Urges Support for HB 4005A

The nurses of Oregon strongly support HB 4005A for drug price transparency because it's time that drug and insurance companies be transparent about drug prices and their effect on premium costs that ultimately impede the delivery of successful, timely, and affordable patient care.

HB 4005A has moved through the legislative process with bipartisan support and champions from both sides of the aisle. State lawmakers are standing together in support of patients and consumers.

Prescription prices are one of the fastest growing cost drivers of health care today, more than doubling over the past several years. Oregon's patients too often cannot afford their medications and are forced to take reduced dosages, cut pills in half or make hard choice between medicine or rent or food. And Oregon companies—both small and large—cannot keep pace with the unsustainable rate of growth in prescription drug prices, being forced to choose plans for their employees with higher out-of-pocket maximums and far fewer benefits.

HB 4005A takes an important step in driving down costs by requiring more transparency in drug price setting. Drug manufacturers will have to report to the state whenever they want to raise the price of a drug 10% or more and insurance companies will have to report on the top 25 most expensive drugs. And under HB 4005A, the Department of Consumer and Business Services would hold annual public hearings about the high price of prescription drugs and develop recommendations to the legislature about tools for the state to help stem the rising prices. These regulations will help explain and address price increases: for example, why Nalaxone - which is essential in fighting the opioid epidemic - has increased 552% in the past three years alone.

Oregon patients and families cannot wait any longer for increased drug price transparency. **We urge your support for HB 4005A.**

From the desk of

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