



# Prescriptions cost too much because the pharmaceutical industry charges too much. It's that simple.

## Transparency was an important first step. Now we need to go further.

HB 4005, the Oregon Prescription Drug Price Transparency Act, was passed with a bipartisan supermajority in February 2018. HB 4005 was an important first step in holding pharmaceutical companies accountable for price-gouging on life-saving medications, but there is still more we can do. Across the country, states are starting to look at ways to truly lower drug prices at the source: what we are charged by the manufacturer. **We need to take action now to protect seniors and other Oregonians who depend on prescription drugs.**

## Our legislative priorities for 2019:



**Importation from Canada (HB 2689 & SB 409):** Make lower-priced drugs from Canada available to Oregon consumers. Require Oregon to design and, with federal approval, implement a state program to import and distribute wholesale prescription drugs from Canada. The program would ensure consumer safety on par with the U.S. drug supply chain system and significant consumer cost savings.



**60-Day Notice Before Price Increases (HB 2658):** Require drug manufacturers to provide at least 60-day advance notice of any intent to raise prices beyond a certain threshold: for brand drugs it is 10 percent or \$10,000 in a 12-month period, and for generic drugs it is 25 percent or \$300 in a 12-month period.



**Advertising Price Disclosure (LC 3018):** Require manufacturers to disclose the wholesale drug price in Oregon in any prescription drug advertisement.



**Increased Access to Generics (HB 2753 & HB 2755):** Amend ORS 689.515 to require (rather than simply allow) a pharmacist to substitute a generic drug for a brand drug if the substitution will result in cost savings/no cost increase to the purchaser, while maintaining other consumer protections in statute, including a prescriber's ability to write a "no substitution" prescription.



**Increased Access to Biological Products (HB 2754 & HB 2755):** Amend ORS 689.522 to require (rather than simply allow) a pharmacist to substitute a prescribed biological product with an interchangeable biological product unless the practitioner has specified there may be no substitution.

**Drug companies make double the profits of pharmacists, distributors, insurance companies, and pharmacy benefit managers combined.**

Connect with Courtney Helstein ([courtneyh@strategies360.com](mailto:courtneyh@strategies360.com)) or Dave Hunt ([daveh@strategies360.com](mailto:daveh@strategies360.com)) to learn more.



## Oregonians are calling on lawmakers to take action on lower drug prices.



"I am a former ER nurse and educator living on a fixed income. I have a chronic heart condition, severe osteoarthritis and crippling allergies. There are occasions where I have to prioritize medications and stop taking others, often times worsening my health. I have skipped refilling a prescription for one of my inhalers because at \$125, I cannot afford it.

When I recently sent a list of my prescriptions to a friend in Canada to compare costs, I was shocked by the difference in price. She reported that 17 of my prescribed drugs, for which I pay \$236 out of pocket here, cost only \$19 combined in Canada.

**The topical cream I use for my osteoarthritis pain is \$168 per tube here, and only \$4 in Canada. It's just not right.**

My story is one that is too familiar for many and it's unacceptable. It's time for pharmaceutical companies to be held accountable. I pay 31 times more than I would in Canada for my inhaler. I pay 12 times more for all my medications combined. I'm calling on my lawmakers to take action – Oregonians need lower prescription costs now."

— Nancy Plemons, Vida, OR

**Over 20 trusted organizations across Oregon have come together to fight back against pharmaceutical industry price-gouging.**

**See the full list & learn more: [AffordableRxNow.org](https://AffordableRxNow.org)**