



TO: House Committee on Health Care
FR: Shaun Parkman
DA: February 19, 2019
RE: Testimony in support of HB 2689, 2680, 2679, 2658 and 2690

Chair Greenlick and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Shaun Parkman. I am a member of SEIU 503 and I am the Chair of the Public Employees' Benefit Board. I am testifying today on behalf of SEIU 503 and I am here to testify in favor of HB 2689, 2680, 2679, 2658 and 2690.

Public safety budgets, schools and municipalities across Oregon are being hurt by rising pharmaceutical drug prices. As far back as 2014- 15, costs experienced by PEBB for specialty medications were already increasing 28.4%, and costs for brand prescriptions rising 16.3%, even while the number of brand drugs prescribed went down 5.4%. If left unchecked this will continue to undermine our state's goal of keeping cost growth to 3.4% for PEBB.

The rate of increase that pharmaceutical drug manufacturers are forcing on PEBB is unsustainable. Reasonable corrective actions needed for this situation are HB 2689, 2680, 2679, 2658 and 2690. This legislation would provide some much-needed relief for PEBB.

PEBB continues to be committed to using all means at its disposal to ensure the best health care at the best prices possible. We have a good track record of finding success at holding costs down without simply pushing costs onto members, but it is becoming clearer that there are some market distortions that are leading to outrageous price increases. These pieces of legislation are a great answer to this problem.

Thank you.

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