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TO: Chair Greenlick
Vice-Chair Nosse
Vice-Chair Hayden
Members of the Committee on House Healthcare

FR: Jessica Giannettino Villatoro, Political Director, Oregon AFL-CIO

RE: Support for HB 2658

The Oregon AFL-CIO, representing over 300,000 working Oregonians, is a voice for all workers in the legislative process. As we consider our role as a worker advocate, we cannot overlook the increasing barriers that working families across the state are continuing to face as they struggle to afford prescription drugs. We applaud the bi-partisan effort of HB 2658.

Oregon has the opportunity to build off of similar work that's been done in other states, to curb increasing costs to hardworking families by passing HB 2658. Working families struggle to keep up with the rising costs of healthcare, but prescription drug prices are set in secret and with no justification. What drug manufacturers are charging for life-saving medications is outrageous. Drug companies are taking double the profits earned by distributors, insurance companies, pharmacy benefit managers, and pharmacists combined. It's time for change.

HB 2658 requires drug manufacturers to provide a 60-notice to the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services of price increases. HB 2658 applies to:

- Brand drugs: 10% or more, or \$10,000+, over a 12-month period
- Generic drugs: 25% or more, or \$300+, over a 3-month period.

California passed a similar provision in 2018, but not all insurers have access to this information. Oregon's consumers should be given the same warning of price increases as our neighbors to the south.

Prescription drugs have saved lives, improved the quality of life and are an important part of staying healthy for millions of Oregonians. But when prescription drug prices become too high our members are not able to pay for life saving drugs that they desperately need. We urge your support for HB 2658.