

Date: 2/21/19

To: The Honorable Andrea Salinas, Chair; The Honorable Hayden, Vice-Chair; The Honorable Nosse, Vice-Chair; Members of the House Health Care Committee

From: Eric Moore, Salem, OR

RE: Please support bills to lower prescription drug prices: HB 2753, HB 2754, HB 2755 and HB 2961

Chair Salinas, Vice-Chairs Hayden and Nosse, and members of the House Health Care Committee,

Hello, and thank you for hearing my testimony today. My name is Eric Moore and I live here in Salem. As a person who depends on prescription medications, I am here today to ask you to support four bills that will help hold the pharmaceutical industry accountable for their outrageous price-gouging: House Bills 2753, 2754, and 2755, and House Bill 2961.

I have diabetes, psoriatic arthritis, and high blood pressure. These three conditions require me to take six different prescriptions including:

- Humalog/Novalog, which is mealtime insulin
- Trojeau, which is long-lasting insulin
- Farxiga, which helps lower my blood sugar
- Simponi Aria and leflunomide for my psoriatic arthritis
- And Linsiniprole, for high blood pressure

Without these medications, my quality of life deteriorates to the point where I can't work, be a parent to my child, or participate in my day-to-day life.

Like many Oregonians, I have seen the cost of my insulin rise significantly over the years. Paying \$100 or more out-of-pocket for insulin I need to not only live, but have a decent quality of life, is outrageous and frustrating. Over the past 10 years, diabetics and people who depend on insulin have seen increases over 300%. And insulin hasn't changed at all!

Pharmaceutical companies and lobbyists say they need to make profits for “innovation,” but when a medication isn’t changing, it’s clear that why they really mean is they need to line their pockets.

I took called Farxiga to help lower my blood sugar, but that jumped from \$30 to \$500 out-of-pocket. I got online with Farxiga and downloaded a coupon that dropped that to \$375. Due to the fact that I pay child support, my net income is about \$2500. With car payment, house payment, etc, that wasn't sustainable.

I now hoard my insulin and stretch out my injections because I worry at some point it will go up. I push my supply from 4 weeks to 6-7 weeks because of cost. As you can imagine, my control of the disease has gotten worse. I can only imagine the severe stress and strain this is putting on lower middle class and poor people. This is a tragedy, and it’s within your power to fix.

Right now, a pharmacist could have a brand name drug and a lower-price generic on the shelf and give you the brand name drug without you ever knowing a lower-priced option is available. This isn’t right. House Bills 2753, 2755, and 2755 work together to increase access to lower-priced generics and biologics by requiring pharmacists to let you know if a lesser-cost option is available.

House Bill 2961 would hold pharmaceutical companies accountable for price gouging by requiring them to list the wholesale price in all advertisements. I deserve to know what my medications really cost, and the pharmaceutical industry should have some basic parameters for operating. They’re not selling vacuums or televisions, they’re selling a substance I need in order to survive that my body cannot produce on its own.

I want to thank Chair Salinas for championing HB 2961 and ask that members of this committee follow her lead and fight for what’s right for Oregonians by supporting these bills and others to lower prescription drug prices.

Thank you,

Eric Moore
Salem, OR