

## Testimony HB 2658: 60 day notice

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Senate Committee on Human Services

Submitted by John Mullin on behalf of AARP Oregon

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*AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With 510,000 members in Oregon, AARP works to strengthen communities and advocate for what matters most to families with a focus on health security, financial stability, and personal fulfillment. An important aspect of our advocacy includes working on ways to provide greater transparency and cost containment for consumers of prescription drugs.*

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AARP Oregon has testified several times in this session on prescription drug issues. **AARP is pleased to support HB 2658**, which requires manufacturers of prescription drugs to provide a report to the Department of Consumer and Business Services about price increases, at least 60 days before such an increase would go into effect.

By way of background, AARP has previously testified that: "In the absence of federal action on this important issue, Oregon needs to blaze a trail to help our citizens afford lifesaving and life-improving medications that are out of reach of so many, whether or not they have insurance." I have included the testimony Jon Bartholomew submitted on February 19<sup>th</sup> for additional background on AARP Oregon's position on multiple prescription bills. Suffice it to say, that prescription drug affordability is a top of mind issue for many AARP members.

Specifically, with respect to HB 2658, AARP participated in the task force based on HB 4005 from the 2018 session. One of the major concerns emerging from the task force work relates to transparency. HB 2658 addresses a piece of the transparency puzzle by giving consumers notice of pending price increases. With this notice individual consumers can look to finding alternate medications by

working with their health care provider. And a broader impact is the potential for insurance companies to negotiate prices based on this information.

AARP Oregon found that in its 2018 Mid-Term Voter Issues Survey, voters over the age of 50 want to see lower drug prices, and they expect that our elected representatives will work constructively on this issue. The survey also found that 92% of respondents see this issue as “important” or “very important.”

While we recognize that there is more work to be done on prescription drugs this session, HB 2658 is an important step forward, and we encourage your support.