

Testimony in support of House Bill 2658

My name is David Schmor and I am a retired high school teacher. I live in St. Helens, Oregon and am one of many Oregonians struggling with the high price of prescription drugs.

I have stage 4 prostate cancer along with a heart condition. I was diagnosed with prostate cancer about 6 years ago and have since been treating the cancer very aggressively.

However, the disease is not all I have to worry about. The expense of my medications and treatments for my cancer are big stressors for me.

My treatment began with surgery that cost over \$100,000, followed by radiation which was another \$100,000 and ongoing hormone therapy that cost me \$200 out of pocket every three months.

Today just one of my cancer pills, Xtandi, costs \$400 a day.

I am currently doing chemo and I have yet to see a final cost for it, but I know it will not be cheap. The price of the medications is astounding, but when combined with the rest of the medical expenses, it's overwhelming.

In order to afford my medications, I participate in experimental studies which give me access to life-saving drugs for free or discounted rates.

Along with the ability to provide research and development, affordability is a major motivator for me to participate in these studies. If it weren't for the fact that my medicine is covered under these studies, I probably wouldn't be able to get the medications that I need to survive.

This is the last thing you need to be stressed over when confronting a life-threatening illness. My heart goes out to anyone without the extra assistance I am lucky to find. Is it any wonder so many go bankrupt because of medical expenses?

Drug companies need to be fully transparent when it comes to price increases. No patient should find out the price of their medication has increased at the pharmacy counter with no chance to financially prepare— now is the time to act. So many lives depend on it.

This is why I am urging you to vote YES on House Bill 2658.

Stand up for me and other Oregonians suffering under high drug prices.