

March 22, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Health Care
From: Health Care for All Oregon
RE: Support of SB 844

Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Knopp and members of the Senate Committee on Health Care:

Health Care for All Oregon is extremely concerned about the egregious price increases by the pharmaceutical industry. As a state and a nation, we must take steps to make medication more affordable.

HCAO supports SB 844 which would create a Prescription Drug Affordability Board. This represents an important step towards regulating the price of prescriptions.

From individuals, families and communities across the we hear that prescription drugs have become prohibitively expensive. We often hear that it becomes an issue of affording medication or groceries or housing.

The board created under SB 844 would identify drugs which cause affordability challenges, create upper limits on prices on those drugs, and penalize price gouging during emergencies. The board would be managed by the Department of Consumer and Business Services.

HCAO respectfully requests the committee to support and pass SB 763 and 764 and commends Sen. Patterson and the committee for giving this legislation due consideration in service to your constituencies and Oregonians from across the state. These bills are critical to the physical and economic health of all Oregonians who depend on prescription medication.

HCAO respectfully requests the committee to support and pass SB 844 and commends Sen. Patterson and the committee for giving this legislation due consideration in service to your constituencies and Oregonians from across the state. This bill is critical to the physical and economic health of all Oregonians who depend on prescription medication.

In addition, the high cost of drugs is essential to get to affordable universal healthcare for all.

Thanks for your time and consideration in this matter.

Tom Sincic, MSN, Family Nurse Practitioner-Retired
President, Health Care for All Oregon