



Service Employees International Union – Oregon State Council
6401 SE Foster ▪ Portland, OR 97206

March 22, 2021

Chair Patterson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Katie Shriver, and I am here representing the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) to speak in support of SB 844.

SEIU is an organization of 85,000 working Oregonians. Our mission is to achieve a higher standard of living for our members, their families, and their dependents by elevating their social conditions and by striving to create a more just society. SEIU approaches healthcare policy from the perspectives of our members, who include care workers, hospital workers, airport workers, security workers, and public workers. We also consider the effect of health policy on the Public Employees' Benefit Board (PEBB).

Prescription drug prices are a significant component of health care costs for SEIU's members, for PEBB, and for Oregonians as a whole. Prices go up year after year -- and people in virtually every other country pay lower prices for prescription drugs than we do here in the United States.

SEIU supports SB 844 to establish a Prescription Drug Affordability Board as the next step to rein in prices for prescription drugs for Oregonians. This strategy builds on the transparency efforts Oregon has already implemented, and the Board is modeled in part on successful prescription drug price review boards in other states. SEIU also supports the opt out for payers that are able to negotiate a lower price for a prescription drug.

We urge a yes vote for SB 844.