

This is my testimony:

Dear Chair Patterson and Members of the Senate Health Care Committee,

I am writing in support of SB 844 the prescription Drug Affordability Board. We know that prescription drug prices affect everyone. It hits older Americans, and older Oregonians, particularly hard. Many of us are on limited income and for some, such as Medicare beneficiaries, the median annual income is just over \$26,000. We should not be a state where residents have to choose between medication and other basic needs such as food and housing.

The price of prescription drugs are growing rapidly. At the beginning of 2021, this year, more than 100 pharmaceutical companies raised prices on over 600 drugs.

And just one example, in 2017, in Oregon close to half a million Oregonians have been diagnosed with cancer. One drug, Revlimid is a cancer drug that may help many of these individuals. Between 2012 to 2017, the price of this drug went from a little over \$147,000 to over \$247,000 and, this year the price has gone to \$280,000

These costs are being passed on to everyone with health coverage through increased health premiums, deductibles and other forms of cost sharing. Creating a Prescription Drug Affordability Board is one step in addressing the high cost of prescription drugs in Oregon. And we aren't alone, Oregon will be joining four other states that have passed such laws (Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts and New York)

We would like to have your support on SB 844

Sincerely,

Dr. John D. Choppala  
AARP Volunteer