

May 18, 2021

Chair Prusak, Vice-Chairs Hayden and Salinas, and members of the House Health Care Committee,

We represent the Oregon Coalition for Affordable Prescriptions (OCAP) – a group of everyday people affected by high drug prices, health care providers and plans, labor groups, and community organizations. Our coalition was founded with a single goal in mind: lowering prescription drug prices for Oregonians. Today we submit this testimony in support of Senate Senate Bill 764.



As an organization we believe that the simple truth about rising prescription medication costs is as follows: drugs cost too much because the pharmaceutical industry charges too much. We also believe there are some simple steps the state of Oregon can take to help alleviate the ever rising drug costs for seniors and working families throughout the state.

One step the State of Oregon can take to rein in prescription drug prices is to end the practice known as “Pay-For-Delay” – in which big pharmaceutical manufacturers often pay generic drug manufacturers to delay distribution of generic drugs that would cost substantially less for consumers. This practice gives name brands a monopoly on their drugs – padding their profits and causing Oregon’s seniors and working families to struggle to afford their medications and make ends meet. By passing Senate Bill 764 Oregon can be a leader in prohibiting this “pay-for-delay” tactic – not only ensuring that less expensive medications become available sooner – but also giving the state the power to take action against pharmaceutical companies that fail to comply.

We urge this committee to do the right thing: support SB 764 and take substantive action during the current legislative session to control the extreme rise in prescription drug prices for all Oregonians.

Thank you for your consideration,

*John Mullin, Board President  
Oregon Coalition for Affordable Prescriptions (OCAP)*