

Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

Thank you for hearing my testimony. My name is Isaac Sutton, and I live with a rare type of arthritis known as ankylosing spondylitis. I suffer from soreness in all areas of my back and stiffness around various joints throughout my body. Thankfully, I can now alleviate my pain due to new innovative medication, but my treatments are expensive.

As a 26-year-old, I recently had to go off of my parent's coverage, and several insurance providers denied me care due to my condition. This was an incredibly stressful time for me and my family because there is no way I could afford the cost of my prescription without proper insurance coverage. My family, especially my mother, was extraordinarily worried about this.

Fortunately, I was able to join Oregon's healthcare plan, and continue my life changing treatment. However, I still remain fearful that a day might come where I am once again struggling to find adequate coverage . My experience as a patient is why I am asking you to wholeheartedly support SB 439.

SB 439 will help alleviate financial burden for patients across the state of Oregon. By requiring insurers reduce the defined cost share for prescribed drugs at the point of sale by 85% of all rebates, this can bring money directly back into the pockets of patients.

No one with health insurance should have to go to the pharmacy counter and pay thousands of dollars for needed prescriptions. The entire point of insurance is for it to be there when you need it most and, this legislation is an important step in the right direction.

SB 439 is good for Oregon health care, please pass this legislation and support patients who are struggling. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Isaac Sutton