

Chair and members of the committee, my name is Roland Cooke, a resident of Multnomah County. I am a lung cancer patient and a member of the Exon 20 Council of ICAN, International Cancer Advocacy Network. ICAN is a national and international cancer patient advocacy organization with patients throughout Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.

In addition to having to fear for our health and life, cancer patients often have large out of pocket costs for medications and treatments forcing patients to pay more than necessary for our care.

Drug manufacturers often provide rebates on medications. These rebates are intended to be passed on to patients through lower drug costs. Instead, they often benefit insurance companies and pharmacy benefit managers; who are pocketing the savings. SB 439 would fix that loophole by requiring 85% of rebates be shared directly with patients – meaning patients would see immediate savings at the pharmacy counter. I urge you to support SB 439, which could save patients hundreds of dollars a year. Thank you for your time and consideration.