



February 21, 2023

The Honorable Deb Patterson, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health Care  
900 Court St. NE, Room HR B  
Salem, OR 97301

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

The Oregon Society for Medical Oncology (OSMO) and the Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) are committed to supporting policies that reduce cost while preserving access to quality cancer care. However, we are concerned that Section 7 of SB 404-1, if adopted, would jeopardize access to necessary care for Oregon patients with cancer. We appreciate your commitment to lowering costs and would like to work with you on the best path forward for patients who face this life-threatening disease.

OSMO is a professional organization whose mission is to facilitate improvements for Oregon physician specialties in both hematology and oncology. OSMO members are a community of hematologists, oncologists, and other physicians who specialize in cancer care. ASCO is a national organization representing physicians who care for people with cancer. With nearly 45,000 members, our core mission is to ensure that cancer patients have meaningful access to high-quality, equitable cancer care.

Life-saving treatments for cancer often include use of high-cost drugs, the very ones targeted by this amendment. Oncologists do not set or control drug prices; they offer their patients the most appropriate, evidence-based treatment that will ensure the best outcome for an individual cancer patient and their specific disease.

We encourage the Board to take into account whether the upper payment limit as proposed could impact access to care for Oregon patients with cancer. As proposed in SB 404-1 section 7, there is no mechanism to ensure that the prices physicians and practices pay for drugs would see corresponding decreases to those reflected in the upper payment limit. Oncologists may have no choice but to continue to pay higher rates for acquisition of drugs and absorb significant financial losses. Additionally, we are concerned there may be no reimbursement to cover the significant costs associated with drug treatments in physicians' offices, including the cost of procuring, storing, preparing, and handling highly toxic agents.

We are eager to discuss other solutions we think could control appropriate utilization of the highest cost drugs and protect cancer patients at that same time, including the use of value-based clinical pathways.

ASCO and OSMO are concerned that the upper payment language in SB 404-1 could have a harmful impact on cancer practices in Oregon and the patients they treat. We urge you to consider the unintended consequences of this legislation. For a more detailed understanding of our recommendations on this issue, we invite you to read the [ASCO Position Statement on Addressing the](#)

[Affordability of Cancer Drugs](#). If you have questions or would like assistance on any issue involving the care of individuals with cancer, please contact Sarah Lanford at [Sarah.Lanford@asco.org](mailto:Sarah.Lanford@asco.org).

Sincerely,

Mujahad Rizvi, MD, FACP, MPH  
President  
Oregon Society of Medical Oncology

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori J. Pierce MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Lori J. Pierce, MD, FASTRO, FASCO  
Chair of the Board  
Association for Clinical Oncology