



BRUCE HILDRETH
President

ASHLEY HILDRETH
Executive Director

TAMI WARD
Vice President

SHERYL ROURKE
Treasurer

MIKE DELMAN
Director

MICHAEL ENGLISH, CPA
Director

DR. PAUL TSENG
Medical Director

February 16, 2017

The Honorable Peter Courtney
900 Court St. NE, S-201
Salem, Oregon 97301

The Honorable Tina Kotek
900 Court St. NE, Rm. 269
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear President Courtney and Speaker Kotek:

I encourage you to oppose HB 2387 as I fear that it will hinder medical innovation and the development of new and better treatments for patients here in Oregon.

My family founded the Sherie Hildreth Ovarian Cancer (SHOC) Foundation in the spring of 2005 roughly six months after my late wife, Sherie, was diagnosed with stage III ovarian cancer. We learned that the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) had a laboratory specializing in gynecologic cancers. At that time, there were no organizations delivering continual funding to this lab. So became the mission to form a foundation to fund ovarian cancer research.

We are a multifaceted fund-raising organization. In our 12 years, SHOC has donated \$810,000 to the Gynecologic Cancer Lab at the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU). We also work to increase public awareness about the disease and connecting survivors with the resources to assist them on their journey. The Foundation primarily serves women in the greater Portland area, but is always available for guidance to anyone coping with gynecologic cancer regardless of their location.

The gains to individual patients and society from new treatments are immense, but are simply not captured in the narrow focus on individual data points contemplated by these bills. Not only do these drugs bring new hope to sufferers of deadly diseases, they reduce costs across the health care system by reducing hospitalizations, surgeries, and doctor visits. An example is chronic myeloid leukemia, a deadly form of cancer. New treatments have increased the ten-year survival rate for CML from less than 20% to more than 80%— while at the same time generating more than \$140 billion in societal benefits and allowing life without harsh treatments.



Yes, drug prices must be addressed. However, HB 2387 misunderstands the factors—and the stakeholders—that contribute to prescription drug costs. Numerous factors are at play, including robust negotiations between manufacturers, payers, and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs). Yet the legislation in question does not capture this complexity, or consider the out-of-pocket costs that are of most interest to patients; costs that are determined by the insurance plan rather than the manufacturer.

Instead, these bills would place onerous reporting burdens on Oregon innovators who take tremendous time and risk in developing the next round of treatments. Because they will be forced to devote substantial time and resources to complying with such onerous requirements, small biotech companies in particular may have to divert precious resources *away from* research and development activities to comply with these reporting requirements. Since these developers are the innovative industry's engine, this could mean delays in getting better treatments—and cures—to patients.

We will continue our efforts to fund research into ovarian cancer and would ask the Oregon Legislature to avoid passing legislation that would impede research into our focus disease or any other disease for that matter. We all should work together to find solutions for high health care costs, but those solutions should be smart, effective, and facilitate—not hamper—the development of innovative new treatments. HB 2387 does not meet the criteria, and should be rejected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce A. Hildreth". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Bruce A. Hildreth
President, SHOC Foundation

bruce@shocfoundation.org
503-781-0989

cc: The Honorable Ginny Burdick
The Honorable Jennifer Williamson
Senate Committee on Health Care Members
House Committee on Health Care Members

About the SHOC Foundation

The Sherie Hildreth Ovarian Cancer (SHOC) Foundation is a 100% volunteer operated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The SHOC Foundation supports the Ovarian and Gynecologic Cancer community by raising funds for research, increasing public awareness, and providing survivors with resources and opportunities to feel empowered through their fight. Since its founding in 2005 by Sherie Hildreth, the SHOC Foundation has donated over \$810,000 to support Ovarian and Gynecologic Cancer Research at the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) Knight Cancer Institute located in Portland, Oregon.

In October 2004, Sherie Hildreth was diagnosed with Ovarian Cancer and took a leave of absence from teaching to undergo surgery and chemotherapy. As an educator, Sherie felt compelled to understand her disease and raise awareness. The more she learned, the more determined she was to survive and make a difference in the lives of other survivors. This life altering experience motivated Sherie to create the SHOC Foundation, a major monetary contributor and advocate for the prevention and eventual cure for ovarian cancer—the 5th leading deadly cancer among women. Sherie passed away from ovarian cancer in December of 2009. Her family and friends continue efforts in leading the Foundation and keeping the dream alive.

