



Date: 1/30/2018

To: Chair Laurie Monnes Anderson, Vice-Chair Linthicum, Members of the Senate Health Care Committee

From: Dan Torres, Political Coordinator Oregon AFSCME

RE: Position statement on SB 409

Chair Monnes Anderson, Vice Chair Linthicum and members of the Senate Health Care Committee:

Oregon AFSCME represents roughly 27,000 workers across the state from corrections officers to nurses to county employees. We have been engaged since the 2017 Session in an attempt to address the growing crisis of sky rocketing prescription drug prices. This crisis is contributing significantly to the increased cost of health care in the United States. Our members see this increased cost in two ways. Firstly in their own life as healthcare consumers and secondly in the work they do and the people they care for.

We have been strong supporters of various proposal including price transparency, 60 day advanced notice and now importation of prescription drugs. Oregon AFSCME supports SB 409 which would allow for the importation of prescription drugs from Canada in a legal and safe manner. The hopes is that this provides an option that reduces costs while still providing for strong safety standards and legal options for consumers. Allowing Oregon to set up a regulated and legal avenue for importation will increase consumer safety and increase options.

We encourage this committee to pass SB 409 and to continue to look at other options and tools that work towards curbing costs. We will continue to work collaboratively on ways to reduce healthcare costs without rolling back benefits.

Dan Torres

Political Coordinator

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