

Date: 01/30/2019

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

From: Ron Louie, Retired Police Chief, Hillsboro, OR

RE: Support for SB 409, Safe Importation of Lower Cost Prescriptions from Canada

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

United States citizens are paying some of the highest prescription drug prices in the world; in most cases, two times more than they would in Canada. This is an outrage and cannot continue. SB 409 has been carefully crafted to ensure safe importation of high-quality, lower cost medication from Canada.

As a retired police chief, ensuring that importation is safe and meets the highest standards of the Drug Quality and Security Act is of the utmost importance to me. Canada's standards for drug safety are most similar to our own in the U.S., and so they were a natural choice as an importation partner. I'm confident that SB 409 will require rigorous audits and protocols that will ensure prescriptions coming into Oregon are pure, unadulterated, potent, and safe. Last year drug companies increased prescription drug prices at 10 times the rate of inflation, which severely impacts the most vulnerable of our community. Importation is a simple, safe approach that creates healthy competition so that bad actors can't fly above the market while everyday people struggle to pay for essential prescription drugs that cost cents on the dollar in Canada. Price equity for prescription drugs in the US is what we all deserve.

I'm proud to support SB 409, and respectfully ask the committee to do the same. Oregonians need immediate relief from high drug prices. Thank you for your consideration.

Ron Louie,

Retired Police Chief, City of
Hillsboro