

March 3, 2021

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Knopp, and Health Care Committee Members:



We represent the Oregon Coalition for Affordable Prescriptions (OCAP) – a group of everyday Oregonians affected by high drug prices, health care providers and plans, labor groups, consumer groups, and community organizations. Our coalition was founded with a single goal in mind: lowering prescription drug prices for Oregonians. Today we urge you to **support both Senate Bill 763 and Senate Bill 764.**

Our coalition believes in this simple truth about rising prescription medication costs: drugs cost too much because the pharmaceutical industry charges too much. There are some simple steps that Oregon can take to help alleviate the ever-rising drug costs for seniors and working families.

The first step would shed daylight on the secretive marketing tactics used by pharmaceutical sales representatives. For far too long, these sales representatives have operated behind closed doors – pushing high-cost name brand medications directly to health care providers – all while Oregonians make tough choices between paying medications or paying for essential needs like food and rent. These secret backroom deals – that lead to the increased writing of prescriptions for high-priced name brand drugs – must end. By passing **Senate Bill 763**, Oregon can lift the veil on these pharmaceutical drug marketing practices by requiring sales representatives to register with the state if they want to market their products; to receive education and training on ethical standards; and most importantly, to disclose all of their interactions with providers.

The second step Oregon can take to rein in prescription drug prices is to end the practice known as “Pay-For-Delay” – in which name brand pharmaceutical manufacturers pay generic drug manufacturers to delay distribution of generic drugs that would cost substantially less for consumers. This practice gives name brands a monopoly on their drugs – padding their profits and causing Oregon’s seniors and working families to struggle to afford their medications and make ends meet. By passing **Senate Bill 764**, Oregon can be a leader in prohibiting this “pay-for-delay” tactic – not only ensuring that less expensive medications become available sooner – but also giving Oregon the power to take action against pharmaceutical companies that fail to comply.

An important third step is creating a Prescription Drug Affordability Board, but that bill is starting in the House.

The Legislature has done important work to increase drug price transparency during the last three years, but we urge you to take action in 2021 that goes beyond just transparency. Please pass SB 763 and SB 764 to help control the extreme rise in prescription drug prices for Oregonians.

John Mullin, Board President

Oregon Coalition for Affordable Prescriptions (OCAP)