

I am writing encourage of SB844 and that the Senate Health Care committee support support SB844.

Many years ago when we were raising our family the cost of a drug could have hurt our family tremendously. We lived on a very limited budget as I stayed home with our children and my husband was the only breadwinner. I remember thinking can we afford going to the doctor and also afford any medicine the doctor would ask us to get at the pharmacy to help our child? We were lucky also to have a family that helped each other in time of need, but not everyone has that. I can't imagine families in today's world having a sick child and having to choose between helping their child survive an illness and food or rent for the family. Some families do not have the support of other family members to help out in times of need.

Today I see friends and family worrying about the cost of insulin and other prescription drugs. Some, including family members, have even had to travel to Canada and Mexico to afford them. That of course was before Covid. When they can't afford the medications they need it can cause further complications and shorten their lives.

My husband and I are so glad we have currently prescription coverage. It allows us to keep our drugs affordable, have money in our budget to enjoy our lives during our retirement and maintain our health as we age. In doing so we save by not incurring expensive doctor visits, tests, hospital visits and even high cost medications. There are many in Oregon who do not have the benefit of a prescription plan. As retirees, medication can mean the difference between having a meal or going without food to afford a much needed medication.

Everyone should be able to afford the cost of prescription drugs. Please join me in supporting Senate Bill 844 to help the people of Oregon maintain their health and dignity.

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