

TESTIMONY AGAINST SB 844  
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This is my 44<sup>th</sup> year in medicine, and my 31<sup>st</sup> year as a practicing medical oncologist. I am Senior Partner of Oregon Oncology Specialists, and former President of the Oregon Medical Association.

In my 44 years in medicine, the progress in cancer therapy has been astounding. Progress has been driven by scientific research, and a great deal of this research has been performed by America's Pharmaceutical Industry. Many cancers that were associated with only a few months of survival when I entered medicine, are now being cured, or are associated with very prolonged survivals, thanks to the development of new and effective drugs and therapies.

The cost of advancing knowledge and developing new drugs is enormous. My concern with SB 844 is that price controls, no matter how virtuous the motive, will very likely slow the development of new cancer therapies, which will lead to death and suffering for our parents, our children, our grandchildren, and ourselves. Please, resist the urge to try to lower the high cost of expensive medications at the risk of doing great harm.

As someone who is knowledgeable in this area, let me offer you some advice. First, please rein in the abuses of the Pharmacy Benefit Managers, a group first established to lower the cost of medications, but who are now driving up the costs of medications through the imposition of direct and indirect remuneration fees, and the imposition of hidden rebates, both of which benefit Pharmacy Benefit Managers at the expense of patients. A fiduciary responsibility of Pharmacy Benefit Managers to lower the cost of a patient's medication for the individual patient would be a good place to start. Second, try to link the federal 340b program to patients in financial need, rather than to designated institutions. This linkage will significantly decrease the list price of medications. Neither of these price saving options for patients will harm cancer research, and cancer research is the necessary and costly effort that will one day lead to the cure of cancer. Thank-you.