

May 18, 2021

To: House Committee on Health Care
From: Health Care for All Oregon
RE: Support of SB 764A

Chair Prusak, Vice Chairs Hayden and Salinas, and Members of the House Committee on Health

Health Care for All Oregon is a statewide organization advocating for equitable, affordable, universal healthcare. Among our supporters are over 120 member and endorsing organizations, 200 business allies, and over 37,000 Oregonians in our database. While HCAO does not speak on behalf of all of these supporters today, we do know that they recognize that it is time for health care transformation and to address the unaffordability of the current system.

Health Care for All Oregon is extremely concerned about the egregious price increases by the pharmaceutical industry. As a state and a nation, we must take steps to make medication more affordable. We know that a recent national poll shows that the cost of health care and prescriptions are at the top of people's concerns.

SB 764A will take an important step towards affordability by prohibiting drug manufacturers from delaying distribution of less expensive medications by a "pay-for-delay" practice whereby they pay potential producers to delay releasing a less expensive generic. This is done to keep their outrageous profits at the expense of those that need the medication.

HCAO respectfully requests the committee pass SB 764A and commends Chair Prusak and this Committee for giving this legislation due consideration in service to your constituencies and Oregonians from across the state. This bill is critical to the physical and economic health of all Oregonians who depend on prescription medication.

Addressing the high cost of drugs is essential to get to affordable universal healthcare for all.

Thanks for your time and consideration in this matter.

Tom Sincic, MSN, Family Nurse Practitioner-Retired
President, Health Care for All Oregon