



Written Testimony of the Caring Ambassadors Program  
Lorren Sandt, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 1748  
Oregon City, OR 97045

February 24, 2023

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden and committee members,

The Caring Ambassadors Program is a national nonprofit advocacy organization based in Oregon City, Oregon. Caring Ambassadors has empowered patients to be advocates for their health since 1997.

We respectfully ask that you revise the -1 amendment to SB404 and delete section 3. The language could be more explicit, manageable, and efficient as it duplicates our reporting to the IRS. Is this required of every nonprofit or only those that speak with a legislator? As it also repeats the conflict of interest and disclosures already required when testifying. Caring Ambassadors is transparent about our fundraising and are open about receiving funds from corporations, pharmaceutical companies, foundations, city and state governments, private donors, and the like. Caring Ambassadors provides this transparency to ensure we provide services and advocacy in an informed, unbiased, and legal way. In addition, our 990 is posted on our website for anyone to access.

We provide free educational materials to people with chronic disease, lung cancer, and hepatitis C. Most of the grants we receive support this work and expressly prohibit lobbying. Do we report those?

More importantly, what will be done with this information provided to DBCS? Will our real-life experiences advocating for people living with a chronic disease be discounted or prohibited because we received funding from a pharmaceutical company?

We are also still trying to understand how this information will change the price of drugs in Oregon.

I am proud of the work we do. I have had many people tell me our advocacy has saved their lives. In a perfect world, the healthcare system would treat everyone. But, until that day, nonprofits that advocate at every level of our democracy for access to care and treatment will continue to work on behalf of those that do not have a voice.

We appreciate the work ahead to reduce the price of pharmaceuticals for all Oregonians and hope that we can work together to come to solutions without stigmatizing an entire workforce that only exists to help people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lorren Sandt".

Lorren Sandt