



February 21, 2024

Senate Committee on Health Care
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony in Support House Bill 4113

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU of Oregon). The ACLU of Oregon is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing civil liberties and civil rights, with more than 28,000 supporters statewide.

We strongly support House Bill 4113, which would make high-cost drugs affordable for people living with HIV and other chronic conditions who often don't have a lower-cost choice, or have a medical need for an expensive drug. HB 4113 does this by requiring insurance companies to count co-pay assistance received toward a person's deductible or out-of-pocket maximum. For many of these Oregonians, co-pay assistance programs are the only way that they can afford their medications. If they exhaust the co-pay assistance without having met the deductible, they may not be able to afford these high cost drugs.

The ACLU of Oregon envisions an interconnected democracy that is of, by, and for everyone. This is a democracy that values the inherent dignity, worth, well-being and autonomy of each individual; where no people are disposable. This is a democracy in which all people experience the fullness of fundamental freedoms and rights, including having access to the opportunities and resources that empower them and their communities to flourish.

Access to healthcare including high-cost drugs for Oregonians who rely on them is central to their well-being and may be what allows them to participate more fully in our community and our democracy.

By passing House Bill 4113, you make healthcare and high-cost drugs affordable and accessible for Oregonians who depend on them. Prior to joining the ACLU of Oregon, I spent much of my career in the private healthcare sector including 20 years within the Blue Cross Blue Shield system; 14 of those years were with Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon/Cambia Health Solutions. I also served as Governor's Brown's deputy health policy advisor and had started to work with state agencies to rein in the high cost of prescription drugs when the pandemic started. I hope the legislature will continue efforts to make prescription drugs affordable for Oregonians. It is incredibly complex work. Oregonians who rely on co-pay assistance programs

for high-cost prescriptions that don't have lower cost options cannot wait until we figure out how to lower high prescription drug costs. **The ACLU of Oregon urges your support for House Bill 4113 and asks you to pass it out of committee.**

Respectfully,

Jackie Yerby, Director of Community Engagement

For more questions, please email Jessica Maravilla, Policy Director at jmaravilla@aclu-or.org