

February 5, 2018

The Honorable Peter Courtney  
900 Court St. NE, S-201  
Salem, Oregon 97301

The Honorable Tina Kotek  
900 Court St. NE, Rm. 269  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear President Courtney and Speaker Kotek:

As someone who suffers from cystic fibrosis and as a survivor of a double lung transplant, the medications I take are not cheap and I understand the burden of co-pays and other out-of-pocket expenses. The legislature should be looking at ways to improve things for patients like me who was told by my doctor recently that one of my necessary treatments would no longer be prescribed because of the cost.

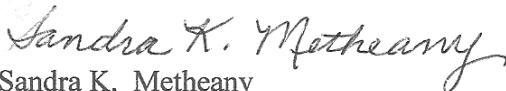
I am disappointed that, for the second year in a row, a bill is being proposed, HB 4005, that has a focus too narrow to truly deliver information of value on the drug pricing front. Its 2017 cousin, HB 2387, suffered from similar flaws and I feel compelled to, again, voice my concerns.

When it comes to the cost of drugs and medications, numerous factors are at play, including robust negotiations between manufacturers, payers, and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs). Yet the bill being considered does not capture this complexity, or consider the out-of-pocket costs that are of most interest to patients; costs that are determined by the insurance plan rather than the manufacturer.

Also, I would always ask you to consider any impact that this might have on the development of new treatments and patient access to those treatments. If there are negative consequences that could impeded innovation, that is of grave concern to people living with chronic disease like pulmonary fibrosis.

We all agree that high healthcare costs need to be addressed, but this type of legislation, which is not patient-centered and will not achieve tangible benefits for patients, is simply not the answer.

Sincerely,

  
Sandra K. Metheany  
606 Mathias Rd.  
Molalla, OR 97038

cc:

The Honorable Ginny Burdick  
The Honorable Jackie Winters  
The Honorable Mike McLane  
The Honorable Jennifer Williamson  
The Honorable Laurie Monnes Anderson  
Joint Ways and Means Committee Members