

HB 2387 is good for Oregon

Letter to the *Gazette-Times*

by Michael Huntington, MD, Corvallis

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I support HB 2387, a bill that will keep prescription drug manufacturers accountable and prices reasonable.

We have seen two full page color ads in the *Gazette-Times* in the past week against HB 2387. One ad features two images: 1. Crossed fingers of a businessman. 2. A earnest-looking middle-class couple seemingly imploring us to oppose the bill.

Regarding the crossed fingers, some have argued that HB 2387's rebate provisions will constitute a windfall for health insurers that will not benefit patients. But HB 2387 requires insurers to pass along the savings to consumers through lower copays via copay caps. And we can reassure the concerned couple in the ad that middle class Oregonians will actually be helped by HB 2387 through more reasonable pharmaceutical prices.

A quick online check of one ad sponsor, Caregiver Voices United, reveals no substantive website or contact information, suggesting that it is a front organization for an unidentified group.

The second ad features a welder at work and implies that HB 2387 would hinder his/her job opportunities by reducing income for the drug industry and hamper capital expansion projects that would employ workers. But rising prescription drug prices are a burden on all Oregonians, including workers and their employers. And drug companies deserve little sympathy, with their 19% profit margin and their 35% budget for marketing and administration.

Ask your doctor whether lower prescription prices are right for you.

And then please ask your legislator to support HB 2387.