



HB23-1225 Extend & Modify Rx Drug Affordability Board

Friday, March 10 2023

HCR 0112 House Health & Insurance

Testimony: Oppose

Good afternoon, Madam Chair and fellow committee members,

My name is Adam Burg and I am the vice president of Government Affairs for the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce.

I'm here today to express our organizations' opposition to HB23-1225

This bill removes two elements that the Chamber fought to have in the passing of the initial SB21-175 Prescription Drug Affordability Review Board. These two elements include the currently set sunset date and putting a cap of drugs that could be brought to the board.

Further, we oppose the expansion of a program at a time when it has not been proven to lower drug costs or evaluate pricing. The Board has not completed an affordability review or set an upper payment limit for a prescription drug. Yet, the bill expands the number of drugs that could be subject to affordability review and removes the limit on the number of drugs for which the PDAB can set an upper payment limit.

While we commend the bill sponsors on their goal to improve the affordability of, we have not yet seen how the impact of the PDAB will play out for both patients and the life sciences ecosystem and, at best, this new bill would create even more uncertainty and unpredictability. Speaking in business terms, capping reimbursement for prescription drugs in the state of Colorado could have downstream effects on the early and development stage companies in our ecosystem and the availability of new medicines for the people of Colorado.

With the ongoing pandemic over the past few years, more than ever, we've seen how investments in science and research have yielded unprecedented results. Additionally, new therapies that cure (not just treat) genetic disorders are coming out over the next decade—which are even more striking, providing opportunities for countless patients to not only survive but thrive.

By expanding the number of drugs that could be subject to affordability review, removing the limit on the number of drugs for which the PDAB can set an UPL, and extending the sunset date for the law, this bill rolls back important protections that were put in place in an attempt to limit unintended consequences.

We encourage the committee to vote no on this legislation.