

Dear Chair Black and Committee Assistant Varin –

It has been brought to my attention the considerations and testimony being received by the House Health Care Committee concerning the costs of outpatient infusion drugs and proposed Act H.266.

I am writing to the entire Members of the House Health Care Committee and the entire House of Representatives to provide my support and testimony to cap outpatient drugs at 120% of the average sales price. The prices charged by some Vermont hospitals for these essential treatments for cancer, Chron's disease, and other conditions are among the highest in the country and are driving the affordability crisis in our health care system. My company is a perfect example of an employer who is facing serious challenges in continuing to provide good cost effective health care coverage and benefits to our employees while we continue facing outrageous double digit healthcare renewal costs every year – and one of the primary driving reasons behind our challenges we face are because of our “high” prescription claims that negatively impacts us upon renewal. Our claim ratio is specifically being driven by these ridiculously outrageous overpriced costs of these drugs, and the outrageous profiting by the pharmaceutical companies and health care providers. If this trend continues, as an employer we will no longer be able to afford to even attempt to continue providing healthcare coverage benefits for our employees.

Vermonters, families and their employers, cannot pay these exorbitant prices that have contributed to the surging costs and outrageous premiums for health care coverage in our state. These costs are crushing Vermont families, forcing employers to make difficult choices, and impeding our economic growth.

Please vote for this change to provide tangible relief in the face of this crisis.

Thank you.