



February 17, 2023

The Honorable Laurie Jinkins
Speaker of the House
399C Legislative Building
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Speaker Jinkins,

As leaders of Washington-based life science companies, we have never had to write a letter like this because we have never seen legislation that could do as much damage to Washington's life science cluster as HB 1269. Our companies and research institutes, which support over 100,000 jobs in Washington state, specialize in developing some of the world's most advanced medicines and allow patients access to some of the world's most advanced care at our leading hospitals and cancer centers. HB 1269 puts all of that at risk. **We ask that you reject HB 1269.**

Last year, the Legislature created the Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB), making Washington one of only two states in the country with a PDAB that could set upper payment limits (UPL) on prescription drugs. Because no state has ever implemented a PDAB with a UPL, provisions were included to help ensure patients with rare diseases could access their medicines, to help ensure that our hospitals and cancer centers could continue to deliver advanced therapies, and to protect cutting-edge medicines being developed and manufactured here in Washington.

After being given some of the most comprehensive authority to set price controls on prescription drugs in the country, the Washington State Healthcare Authority (HCA) chose not to work on the complex implementation of that law, but instead proposed HB 1269, which seeks to remove the crucial protections provided in the original legislation as well as removing legislative oversight and stakeholder input, which will be critical to implementing the law without causing patients to lose access to their medications.

Unfortunately, price controls are already in state law under the current PDAB program. Rejecting HB 1269 will not remove those provisions from state law. However, voting yes on HB 1269 will harm our ability to continue developing and delivering groundbreaking new therapies in Washington. Additionally, adding rare disease therapies to the PDAB program will not make those drugs more affordable—it will make them inaccessible for patients in our state.

Voting no on HB 1269 will protect patient access to the world's most innovative and complex therapies. Washington researchers and organizations are developing these treatments, which are then commercialized and manufactured by companies here in Washington state. By rejecting HB 1269, you will be supporting the companies that have made Washington a top-ten life science cluster in the nation while maintaining safeguards for patients contained in current law.

President Biden recently signed the Inflation Reduction Act. Even this unprecedented Federal prescription drug pricing law specifically addressed many of these same issues and included even stronger protections for innovative medicines like those produced in our state. HB 1269 moves in the opposite direction by eliminating such protections.

HB 1269 will harm access to medicines for patients with rare diseases, undermine hospital and cancer centers' ability to provide patients with the most advanced treatments, and stifle the development of advanced therapies by Washington life science companies. Please reject HB 1269.

Sincerely,



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Bothell, Everett

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SVP, Bristol Myers Squibb
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Sean McClain
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