



John Schall
President

Board of Directors

Anne Montgomery
Altarum Institute

Jim Paglia
Brands That Stand

Melissa Rowley

Marion Watkins
Alston & Bird, LLP, Office
of Senator Robert Dole

April 11, 2017

Dear Senator,

I am writing to express the concerns of Caregiver Voices United regarding SB 265.

Caregiver Voices United advocates for the 90 million family caregivers across the country who care for loved ones with chronic conditions, disabilities, disease, or the frailties of old age.

Most often, it is the family caregiver, not the patients themselves, who manage the medications. Family caregivers are dedicated to ensuring that their loved ones have access to safe, affordable medications that they need to stay healthy.

We are concerned that:

- SB 265 requires non-profit organizations such as ours to report contributions made by drug manufacturers annually, be posted on the non-profit website and imposes fines for non-compliance. There is no reason for this additional reporting burden when non-profits already report on what contributions we receive on our annual 990 form.
- SB 265 only focuses on medications and ignores other more important drivers of medical costs.
- SB 265 could hinder patient's access to medications if the 90-day advance notice on price increases provides a perverse incentive for wholesalers to stockpile supply of drugs.

Certainly, something must be done to help lower medication costs and help patients with chronic conditions that are being discriminated against when their health plans are designed to shift an unfair portion of costs onto them.

As family caregivers, we have no higher priority than the health of our loved ones. But we do not think that SB 265 will help patients and their families lower their out of pocket medication costs.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John A. Schall", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

John A. Schall
President