



**We can stop pharmaceutical  
company price-gouging in  
Oregon.**

**2018 TOWN HALL TOOLKIT**

# 2018 TOWN HALL TOOLKIT

**Want to tell your lawmaker what you think about high prescription drug prices? Go to their town hall in your community!**

State lawmakers hold regular community meetings called “town halls” so they can meet with people who live in their district. And when people show up and speak out, legislators remember. Our volunteers are showing up to town halls across the state to ask lawmakers to take action NOW to lower prescription drug prices.

## **Find a town hall near you.**

Sometimes town halls are announced in advance, but others have short notice. Find out who represents you here: [oregonlegislature.gov/findyourlegislator/leg-districts.html](http://oregonlegislature.gov/findyourlegislator/leg-districts.html).

Once you find your lawmakers, send them a quick email asking them the date and location of their next town hall!

## **Speak up and share your story!**

Personal stories from voters are very powerful. They are the best tool we have to fight back against pharmaceutical lobbyists. If you have personal experience with skyrocketing drug prices, please speak out. You will make a difference.

Earlier this year Nancy, Anne, and Debbie spoke out and helped pass a prescription drug price transparency bill. They made a difference and so can you!



# 2018 TOWN HALL TOOLKIT

## We have one key message for lawmakers:

“Thank you for passing HB 4005 for prescription drug transparency. Let’s take that success and keep going. In 2019, please support legislation that will lower the prices drug companies charge us.”

## Here are some other talking points that people find helpful:

- The problem with prescription drugs starts with the price. Drug manufacturers are the ones that set the initial price of a prescription drug.
- Drug prices are increasing 10 times the rate of annual inflation.
- Even generics are increasing. There was a 1,000 percent increase for about 400 generic drugs over just seven years. No one can afford 1,000 percent increases. The Pfizer CEO received a 61% raise yet patients are paying the price.
- HB 4005, the Prescription Drug Price Transparency Act, was landmark legislation for Oregon. We can’t stop now! We need to lower drug prices so no Oregonian has to make hard choices about taking their medications or paying for rent or food.

## And here are some sample questions for lawmakers:

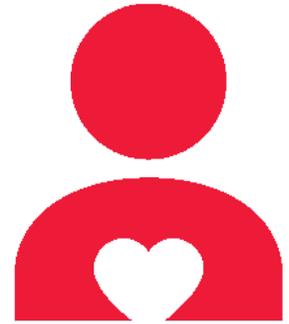
- HB 4005, the Prescription Drug Price Transparency Act, was a first step to learning more about drug prices. What else can the Oregon Legislature do to hold drug companies accountable?
- Do you think it’s right for manufacturers to put double and triple digit price increases on drugs that have been on the market for decades? What do you plan to do about it?
- Why do patients in other industrialized countries pay 50% less than Oregonians for identical medications?

# 2018 TOWN HALL TOOLKIT

## Insider Tips for Town Halls:

Get there early to ensure you are able to find the location and parking. Ask a staff person if you need to sign up to ask a question. When there is a question period, people say they have most success when they:

- Stick with a prepared list of questions
- Are polite, but persistent (feel free to ask a follow-up questions!)
- Keep the pressure on lawmakers to demand real answers



## Social Media: Tell everyone how it went!

Keep the conversation going! If your lawmaker said something you think everyone should hear, post about it and tag them! If you tag #orleg and #orpol on Twitter, Oregon's political watchers and other lawmakers will also see it. And if you use #RxPriceGouging, we'll see it and can share your post!



### **Example Tweet:**

Thanks for standing up for patients today at your town hall, Senator/Representative \_\_\_\_\_! We need a solution to #RxPriceGouging! #orpol #orleg

### **Example Facebook Post:**

I attended Senator/Representative \_\_\_\_\_'s town hall today and was so glad to hear that they stand with patients against #RxPriceGouging.

**If you have questions or want to tell us how the town hall went, please feel free to email us at [info@affordablelrxnow.org](mailto:info@affordablelrxnow.org).**