

January 26, 2020

The Honorable Judy Lee, Chair
Senate Human Services Committee
North Dakota State Legislature
State Capitol
600 East Boulevard
Bismarck, ND 58505-0360

Re: Senate Bill 2170

Dear Madame Chair Lee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 2170. I represent Prime Therapeutics, a pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) owned by 18 not-for-profit Blue Cross and Blue Shield insurers, subsidiaries or affiliates of those insurers, including Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Dakota (BCBSND). The policies embodied in this bill – namely, asking purchasers of drugs to acquire those drugs at the lowest possible price – align with Prime’s long-standing business practices. We believe this bill represents a positive step in understanding and addressing the cost-drivers in the prescription drug market.

Moving ahead, we look forward to working with the committee to discuss how we work to make prescription drugs more affordable for North Dakotans. We appreciate the bill sponsor’s recognition that the price of a drug remains unaddressed by North Dakota law. Prime Therapeutics has been and will continue to be committed to helping North Dakotans get the drugs they need to feel better and live well at the best possible price – this represents a step in the right direction to help us further that mission.

Sincerely,

Alex Sommer, J.D.
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