

March 22, 2020

Chair Lefor and Members of the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee,

We are Dr. Michael and Marilyn Worner and have resided in Fargo for the past four years after living in Mayville for thirty years. We are both retired educators. We are submitting written testimony in support of Senate Bill 2170 and are very grateful that Senator Anderson and this committee are tackling this challenging and critical issue.

The rising costs of prescription drugs affects everyone in our great state- - and especially impacts older North Dakotans like ourselves. Most of us live on very modest and fixed incomes and cannot absorb the continuous escalating costs of health care including prescription drugs. We are requesting your support on Senate Bill 2170, related to containing/reducing prescription drug costs.

Our family needs your assistance passing this bill so that prescription drugs can be obtained at a more reasonable cost. Personally, we claimed \$22,000.00 in medical costs when filing our income tax this year - - about 30% of our income. It is necessary for my husband to use prescription eyedrops that cost approximately \$1,700.00 for a three-month supply (\$6,800.00 annually). Because of the high cost of this medication he has reduced his eye drop usage to one half of the prescribed dosage. The medication has no generic or over the counter alternative. Recently he was able to obtain his prescription drug from a visitor who was from a South American country at a cost of \$60.00 for a three-month supply. Interestingly, BOTH of the medications were manufactured in the United States by the same company- - one in Waco, TX and one in Irvine, CA. This is not right!

We are extremely concerned about the future when our doctors prescribe another costly medication that we will be unable to afford. Will we be able to continue to purchase prescription drugs out of the country? How long will we be able to pay for our prescription drugs?

Your positive work on Senate Bill 2170 will demonstrate the importance of this issue on a state and national basis. We would appreciate a YES vote on this bill so that it gets a fair discussion and debate in the House.

Thank you for your service to the citizens of our great state. We appreciate your hard work and commitment.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael and Mrs. Marilyn Worner
District 44
Fargo, ND 58102