



December 11, 2024

To: Lorren Sandt, Executive Director  
Caring Ambassadors Program, Inc.

Dear Lorren,

Thank you for your ongoing interest in the Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB) and for the letter you sent on October 30, 2024, which was co-signed by several others. Like you, we are committed to ensuring that the work of the board is not biased or discriminatory and that it furthers, and in no way harms, the important work you and others have been engaged in to help people with disabilities. Your engagement is truly valued and appreciated.

I would like to address some specific statements in your letter to foster a clearer understanding. Additionally, I invite you to share any supporting documentation that may clarify your concerns further. Your insights are important to us, and we want to understand your perspective more deeply.

In your letter, you assert that Senate Bill 1508 clearly encompasses the Equal Value of Life Years Gained (evLYG), which devalues disabled lives the same as the Quality-Adjusted Live Year (QALY) in expected life years. The quality of life in general measure in SB 1508 is defined as “an assessment of the value, effectiveness or cost-effectiveness of a treatment that gives greater value to a year of life lived in perfect health than the value given to a year of life lived in less than perfect health.”<sup>1</sup> The bill does not explicitly identify evLYG as this type of measure.

Accordingly, we would welcome further information from you explaining how SB 1508 considers evLYGs to be a discriminatory measure. More generally, given that the evLYG evaluates life extension equally for all patients—regardless of age, severity of illness, or disability – we would appreciate your view as to how this is considered a discriminatory measure.

Furthermore, ICER analyses do not use the evLYG to identify subpopulations for which a prescription drug would be less cost-effective based on a patient's age or severity of illness or disability. By design, the evLYG weighs the value of the quality of life equally for all patients,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2024R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB1508/Enrolled>

regardless of the patient's age or severity of illness or disability, for any drug that extends life.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, we believe that evLYG data for analyses or reports would be permissible to use during affordability reviews and we welcome your further input on why they cannot be so used.

In conclusion, your letter emphasizes a commitment to open dialogue and understanding regarding the complex issues surrounding the work of the PDAB. By addressing specific concerns and inviting further clarification, the board and staff seek to ensure that all perspectives are considered. The emphasis on equitable treatment for all individuals, regardless of age or disability, underlines the importance of fostering trust and transparency in healthcare decision-making processes. Continued engagement and collaboration will be important in addressing concerns and promoting equitable review with all drugs selected for affordability review in this state.

Sincerely,

Ralph Magrish  
Executive Director, Oregon Prescription Drug Affordability Board

CC: Shelley Bailey, Oregon PDAB Chairwoman  
TK Keen, Division of Financial Regulation Administrator

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<sup>2</sup> [Campbell. PharmacoEconomics. 2023 .pdf](#)