

**STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD**  
**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, INSURANCE &**  
**ENVIRONMENT**  
**ON THE**  
**PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICE TRANSPARENCY ACT**  
**March 8, 2018**  
**HOWARD PAUL, OWNER**  
**HOWARD PAUL PHOTOGRAPHY**

Dear Chairperson Ginal, Vice-Chair Esgar and other members of the Committee:

My name is Howard Paul, and I'm the owner of Howard Paul Photography here in Denver. Thank you for allowing me to share comments with you on the importance of greater transparency in the pricing of drugs, and how this impacts the price of health insurance for small business owners.

As a small business owner, volunteer first responder and, now, cancer patient, I know the value of access to quality, affordable healthcare first hand. While there are many steps that could be taken regarding strengthening our healthcare system, I believe we need to address the high costs associated with specialty drugs in order to ensure more affordability and stability in the health insurance marketplaces.

I was able to take the leap in starting my business in large part because I knew I could access affordable health coverage and prescription drugs through the individual marketplace. This has been a lifeline for me, as I was diagnosed with prostate cancer in December 2016. Without the coverage I receive through the individual marketplace, there is no way I'd be able to pay for my medication out of pocket. One medication alone costs more than \$120,000 per year. That's why we need to address the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs.

These prices are simply exorbitant, and hurt small business' bottom lines. And I'm not the only one who thinks so. In fact, polling from Small Business Majority found many small business owners are absorbing increased drug copays or passing those costs off to their employees. This is why the vast majority of small business owners support a range of policy proposals to address rising costs, such as making drugs developed using taxpayer dollars affordable to every American.

I believe HB18-1260 can help address the issue of high drug costs by increasing price transparency, which I believe would benefit everyone—including small business owners like me. I urge you to enact this legislation in order to bring more stability to drug prices and health coverage as a whole.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue.

Howard Paul, Owner  
Howard Paul Photography