

HEALTH CARE IS STILL TOO EXPENSIVE

One third of all health care spending is waste. Waste stems from things like:¹



Overinflated medical prices.

One hospital was even caught charging \$1,000 for a toothbrush.²

\$105 billion

in total waste



Duplicative treatments,

like getting the same x-ray twice.

\$8 billion

in total waste



Excessive administrative costs,

like duplicate paperwork.

\$190 billion

in total waste

“In general, insurance companies don’t ask for the details. They don’t challenge the prices. They just pay.” - The New York Times³



By investigating and pushing back against unjustified insurance rate hikes,⁴ **OSPIRG has helped cut more than \$150 million in waste from premiums.**

The Oregonian

“How can consumers, especially individual policy holders, effectively challenge those arguments? **OSPIRG has been a consistent advocate for consumers**, but otherwise few business or advocacy groups get engaged in the rate-setting process.”

- The Oregonian Editorial Board 5/23/2011

OSPIRG | Standing Up
To Powerful Interests

[1] From an estimate of 2009 health spending by Institute of Medicine and the National Academies, Feb. 2011, The Healthcare Imperative: Lowering Costs and Improving Outcomes

[2] CNN, March 2010, Prescription for waste: \$1000 toothbrush

[3] New York Times, August 2013, The Cure for the \$1,000 Toothbrush

[4] OSPIRG Foundation, July 2013, Accountability in Action