



April 25, 2013

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE & HUMAN SERVICES

FROM: OSPA & OSHP

RE: SUPPORT HB 2714 AND ENHANCE THE ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY OF OVER-THE-COUNTER HEALTH CARE TESTS

The Oregon State Pharmacy Association (OSPA) and the Oregon Society of Health-System Pharmacists (OSHP) urge your **support of HB 2714**, which increases the access and affordability to routine, yet critical, tests and therapies for Oregon patients who are managing chronic diseases such as hypertension or diabetes.

As approved by the House, HB 2714 would smartly expand the ability for properly trained pharmacists to provide these Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments-waived screenings or procedures - the very ones that have already been cleared by the FDA for use at home by the (potentially untrained) consumer. If these tests are easy and safe enough for home use then there is little reason to believe that our members would be unable to assist patients - in particular the vulnerable populations - in assessing their health care. Oregon is an innovator in health care and this is one more link in the chain of access that will help CCOs be successful in managing chronic disease across all patients.

HB 2714 is an easy statutory solution to a gap in the delivery system. The bill would allow pharmacists to conduct these over-the-counter tests, such as glucose level or cholesterol tests, without the need for a laboratory director. As mentioned above, the measure limits the specific tests to those that are already recognized by the FDA as safe to be performed with little or no oversight.

It is important that we honor the intent of removing duplicate measures and keeping our newly minted health care structures streamlined. These unnecessary regulations prevent common sense care within reasonable circumstances - and all of this can be solved without burdening small businesses.

The Oregon State Pharmacy Association and the Oregon Society of Health-System Pharmacists urge your **passage of HB 2714** as it will maximize the ability for medical professionals to do the best jobs they can; and, give patients and consumers additional points of contact with their own care.