

The Honorable Laurie Monnes Anderson  
900 Court Street NE, S-413  
Salem, Oregon 97301

February 28, 2013

**RE: National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) Support of S.B. 363**

Dear Chairwoman Anderson:

On behalf of the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA), I offer NCPA's support for S.B. 363 and respectfully request this legislation's favorable advancement through the legislative process. S.B. 363 is a bill that would protect the right of Oregon residents to utilize the valuable services of their community pharmacist rather than being forced to obtain their needed prescription medications only through the mail. Simply put, it represents legislation that protects a citizen's right to choose. This legislation not only ensures patient choice, but would also enable Oregon to take important and needed steps towards leveling the playing field between large Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) and local community pharmacies and small businesses which are so vital to Oregon's economy.

NCPA represents America's independent community pharmacists, including the owners of more than 23,000 community pharmacies, pharmacy franchises and chains. Together, they employ over 300,000 full-time employees and dispense nearly half of the nation's retail prescription medicines. In Oregon alone there are 153 community pharmacies that employ an estimated 1,600 citizens. These pharmacist small business owners are responsible for over \$586 million in annual sales. Community pharmacy represents a vital component of our nation's "Main Street Economy."

This bill will allow citizens to gain the benefit of face-to-face interaction with their trusted community pharmacist if they choose to do so, instead of being forced to utilize an out-of-state mail order pharmacy. This bill would also prevent citizens from being charged higher co-pays for prescriptions not obtained through a mail-order pharmacy or being penalized for utilizing the services of their community pharmacist.

A study done by Wirthlin Worldwide showed that 83% of customers prefer to fill their prescriptions at a community pharmacy rather than through a mail order pharmacy and overall, 72% of customers oppose mandatory mail order plans. Nearly two-thirds of seniors (63%) have indicated in a recent study they were fearful of losing access to the pharmacy of their choice if they were required to use mail order and a plurality of seniors expressed the following concerns about using mail order pharmacies, including running out of their medications; obtaining prescriptions in a timely manner; lost, stolen or damaged medications; and the ability to consult with a pharmacist they know and trust. NCPA wants to be clear, this bill would *not* prevent citizens from choosing mail-order if they feel that option is best. It simply allows the freedom of choice a resident of Oregon deserves and wishes to have.

In conclusion, NCPA respectfully requests that you do all in your authority to advance S.B. 363 through the legislative process. We offer NCPA's full resources should you wish to discuss this issue's impact in Oregon, or its national perspective. Please feel free to contact me at [matt.diloreto@ncpanet.org](mailto:matt.diloreto@ncpanet.org) or 703-600-1223 should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Matthew J. DiLoreto  
Director, State Government Affairs