



UNITED ASSOCIATION
of Journeymen and Apprentices of the
Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of
the United States and Canada

Founded 1889

Letters should
be confined to
one subject

UA Local Union: **290**

Subject: **Oregon H.B. 2123, Not Good For Our Members
March 14, 2012**

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Dear Legislators,

UA, Local 290, has close to 4000 members that utilize two different medical pharmaceutical plans which although are different programs, they have similar benefits one of which is a Mail-service pharmacy plan.

This plan allows the member if they choose this option to order up to a 90-day supply, providing a significant cost savings, particularly for medications prescribed for chronic conditions.

Anti-mail legislation that restricts the appropriated use of mail-service for long-term prescriptions amounts to nothing more than special-interest legislation that will raise cost for consumers and at the same time make it more difficult to get the medication that our members need without going to a brick and mortar pharmacy.

A recent study by Visante concluded that mail-service pharmacies will save employers, unions, government employee plans, consumers and other commercial-sector payers \$453 million over the next ten years in Oregon.

Mail-service pharmacies save consumers and payers an average of 15% on 90-day prescriptions compared to 90-day prescriptions obtained at brick and mortar drugstores. As an additional benefit, there is an average savings of \$22 per, 90-day prescription compared to the same prescription obtained at a drugstore.

It is important to keep medical cost including pharmaceutical plans as low as possible for our members. H.B. 2123 will not accomplish this task and to the contrary will raise cost and lead to possible fraud by allowing poor auditing practices for those that provide prescriptions. In addition to detecting fraud, it should be understood that, audits also have a patient safety aspect. Auditors ensure that pharmacies are complying with Board of Pharmacy rules including the proper storage of prescription drugs or posting of required signs.

It is clear to our members, H.B. 2123 increases cost while at the same time encouraging fraud. On behalf of our members at UA Local 290, I ask you to vote **NO** on H.B. 2123
Respectfully Requested

Dennis J. Coplin Sr
Director of Political and Legislative Affairs

