



February 11, 2015

House Health Care Committee  
c/o Representative Mitch Greenlick, Chair  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2421

The Oregon Bioscience Association believes that expanded access to FDA approved products created by the bioscience sector fosters continued research, development and commercialization of biological products and devices. Oregon Bio is concerned with the potential ramifications of HB 2421 and its potential to limit patients' ability to access mental-health care treatments. We ask the committee to oppose HB 2421.

HB 2421 would remove several protections that currently allow patients to access the medication prescribed by their physicians for treatment of conditions such as bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. HB 2421 would establish a formulary that would restrict access to some medications. It also may delay access by creating prior authorization processes for some treatments and allowing coordinated care organizations to create additional restrictions which may vary throughout the state. Finally, HB 2421 could potentially limit access to newly developed medications approved by the FDA.

Oregon's \$4.1 billion bioscience industry is the fifth largest sector in the state and one of Oregon's steadiest economic engines. In 2011, 775 bioscience related organizations employed 17,293 people in Oregon. Oregon Bio supports Oregon's bioscience community through networking, educational programs, enterprise support, advocacy, and the enhancement of research collaboration.

As the collective voice for the bioscience community on behalf of Oregon's bioscience companies, Oregon Bio is responsible for communicating the industry's impact, issues and challenges to the public sector, educators and the general public. We ask you to oppose HB 2421.

Thank you for your work on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dennis McNannay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial 'D'.

Dennis McNannay  
Executive Director

Cc: Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Committee Administrator