

The Honorable Representative Mitch Greenlick, Chair
Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health Care
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

April 2, 2015

Re: Local Oregon Pharmacy Owner's Support of House Bill 2875

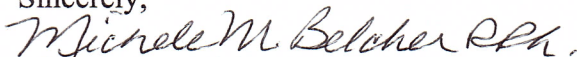
Dear Representative Greenlick:

I provide this letter as an independent community pharmacist, small business owner and pharmacy owner operating in Oregon. My name is Michele Belcher and I own Grants Pass Pharmacy located in Grants Pass Oregon. I am writing to you in strong support of the amendments being proposed to House Bill 2875. As a pharmacist who was directly involved with the passage of H.B.2123, now Chapter 570, I can assure you that the proposed amendments to this important law are needed. The measures being proposed within the amendments to H.B.2875 simply ensures that the law currently in place will be properly complied with by adding and amending language that reinforces the original intent of the law.

As a pharmacy owner, I continue to deal with delayed price updates on a daily basis. I continue to not receive appeals in the required time frame. In fact, most of the time, Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) fail to directly update me on MAC prices at all, leaving me to oftentimes dispense at a notable loss. Just this week, I completed a summary of first quarter 2015 generic drug transactions and I found over \$15,000.00 in prescriptions being dispensed below cost. It is apparent that the PBMs in Oregon have simply failed to comply with the intent of the previously enacted law which is why it is so necessary for the legislature to revisit the legislative language. H.B. 2875 takes many necessary steps to ensure that the intent of Oregon's law is not undermined by PBMs.

As a small business owner, I am urging you to support the amendments being proposed to H.B. 2875—which would strengthen Oregon's already existing legislation to ensure for a fair and transparent pharmaceutical marketplace. This much needed legislation takes necessary steps to ensure that the true intent of Chapter 570 is properly implemented and enforced. We as Oregon pharmacists are not asking anything more of the legislature than to support the intent of the original law and ensure that that law is complied with properly through the addition of the amendments in H.B.2875. If you have any questions about the information contained in this letter or wish to discuss in greater detail, please do not hesitate to contact me at 541-659-0301.

Sincerely,



Michele M. Belcher, RPh.

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