



## **MEMORANDUM**

To: Senator Monnes-Anderson, Chair, Senate Committee on Health Care  
Senator Kruse, Co-chair, Senate Committee on Health Care  
Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care

From: Bryan Boehringer, OMA Government Relations  
Courtnei Dresser, OMA Government Relations

Date: April 8, 2015

Re: Support for SB 841

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The OMA supports the modifications in SB 841 for health plan coverage of prescription drugs dispensed in accordance with the plan's synchronization policy. Medication synchronization allows pharmacists to work with the provider and the patient to align the refill dates of all the patient's prescriptions. This means less trips to the pharmacy for the patient and has been shown to improve medication adherence, resulting in healthier patients and reduced costs to the health system as a whole.

The OMA supported SB 1579 in 2014, the bill that required health plans to cover the process of synchronizing refills for all the patient's medications, including a one-time adjustment of the refill quantities for some of the medications. SB 841, before you today, expands the original bill to require health plans to reimburse the cost of prescription drugs dispensed in accordance with the plan's synchronization policy. Health plans must prorate any cost-sharing requirement applied to the dispensing of less than a 30-day supply of a prescription drug if requested for the purpose of synchronizing a patient's prescription drugs and fully reimburse the dispensing fee for partially filled or refilled prescription drugs. The bill also exempts certain classes and packaged prescription drugs from inclusion in a synchronization policy, including controlled substances or drug at high risk of diversion as identified by the DEA.

The OMA supports SB 841 as it has the potential to improve patient outcomes through better medication adherence, as overseen by both the patient's provider and dispensing pharmacist.

**The Oregon Medical Association is an organization of over 8,100 physicians, physician assistants, and medical students organized to serve and support physicians in their efforts to improve the health of Oregonians. Additional information can be found at [www.theOMA.org](http://www.theOMA.org).**