



NAMI Oregon Opposes Dash-2 and Dash-3 Amendments for HB 2638

NAMI Oregon opposes the Dash-2 and Dash-3 amendments for House Bill 2638, which is legislation intended to allow the state of Oregon to participate in the Oregon Prescription Drug Program.

NAMI Oregon supports the state's participation in the "buying pool" for prescription medications that is included in Section 1 of the legislation. Pooling of purchasing power for medications has the potential to save money on prescription medications for the state fee-for-service pharmaceutical program.

However, NAMI Oregon opposes the Dash-2 and Dash-3 amendments because of new language in Section 2, Subsection 5 that would:

- **Eliminate Oregon's longstanding patient protections for individuals living with serious mental illness** by authorizing barriers to accessing newer mental health medications.
- **Offer no clear benefit to the state or to patients** by delaying access to newer mental health medications for six months, when patient protections inevitably kick in fully.

Based on the two public hearings for HB 2638, it appears that modifications to Oregon's patient protections for individuals living with serious mental illness are unintended. As such, we urge the Senate Committee on Health Care to:

- Consider the Dash-1 amendments, which preserves patient protections while permitting the state to pool its purchasing power through the Oregon Prescription Drug Program.
- Alternatively, we urge the Committee to add language that preserves patient protections for those living with serious mental illness that is consistent with current state law.

**For further information please contact:
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