



PacificSource Health Plans

Written Testimony in Opposition to SB 526

Chair Monnes-Anderson, Vice Chair Kruse and members of the Senate Health Care Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in response to SB 526. PacificSource is an independent, not for profit health plan, based in Oregon. We serve commercial, Medicaid and Medicare lives and are the contracted Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) in Central Oregon and the Columbia River Gorge. We are committed to ensuring our Members have access to healthcare services and treatments that are of high quality and are affordable.

If passed, SB 526 constrains our ability to undertake effective, evidence-based care management strategies for the coverage of prescription drugs. Step Therapy begins with time-tested treatments, before turning to newer and often much more expensive therapies. At a time when the healthcare system is moving toward value-based benefits and services, it works at cross-purposes to have bills that undermine the use of evidence-based medicine. As always, member health and safety is of paramount concern to us and we have options for over-riding Step Therapy protocols in the event a drug is medically contraindicated.

SB 526 is incongruent with Oregon's healthcare transformation goals of better health, better care and lower costs as it promises to drive up cost, while not necessarily improving health outcomes for patients. We urge you to oppose SB 526.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marian Blankenship". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, decorative flourish at the end.

Marian Blankenship
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