

Providence Health & Services
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February 9, 2018

The Honorable Mitch Greenlick
Chair, House Committee on Health Care
State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: House Bill 4103 – Mail order pharmacy

Dear Representative Greenlick and members of the committee:

Providence Health Plan is committed to providing safe, affordable pharmaceutical coverage to our members. We are concerned that HB 4103, as introduced would limit our ability to provide pharmaceutical coverage to our members in the safest, most cost-effective manner.

Credentialing is an important tool that health insurers use to ensure the quality of their network. Limiting credentialing standards to mere licensure for pharmacists may impact the ability of insurers to obtain health quality accreditation through entities such as NCQA. This serves no public good and hinders the efforts of insurers to provide safe, high-quality pharmaceutical networks to their members.

Cost is a significant concern with regards to pharmaceutical coverage, and as such, Providence Health Plan strives to deliver services to our members in the most cost-effective manner possible. Mail order pharmacies are able to deliver prescription drugs to members at lower costs than retail pharmacies due to their structure and they are often more convenient. In the face of rising pharmaceutical costs it is irresponsible to discourage the use of a mechanism that delivers services to members at a lower cost. Restricting the use of mail order pharmacies will harm Oregonians by increasing the cost of their health insurance premiums.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our input; we look forward to further discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen M. Noonan-Harnsberger". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Helen Noonan-Harnsberger, Pharm.D, AVP, Pharmacy for Providence Health Plans