



**Opposition to HB 4103 House Health Care Committee
February 9, 2018**

Chair Greenlick and Members of the committee, for the record, my name is Mihir Patel, Director of Pharmacy Services for PacificSource Health Plans. PacificSource is an independent, not-for-profit health plan based in Oregon. We serve commercial, Medicaid and Medicare lives and administer contracts for Coordinated Care Organizations in Central Oregon and the Columbia River Gorge.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in **opposition of HB 4103**, limiting pharmacy benefit managers' ability to require or encourage enrollees to fill or refill prescription drugs at mail order pharmacies. Although PacificSource is not a PBM, we work closely with Caremark in the management and administration of our comprehensive prescription drug benefit program. This includes offering flexible retail, mail order, and specialty pharmacy options to our members via Caremark from a national perspective and Wellpartner and others from a regional perspective.

HB 4103 places harmful limitations on our ability to effectively manage prescription benefits. The bill essentially de-incentivizes the use of the most cost effective and accurate route of filling prescriptions via mail order. This will result in increased costs for all payers including employers and patients. Mail order prescriptions also increase access and convenience for members residing in rural areas serviced by PacificSource and its Coordinated Care Organizations. In addition, we have seen mail order utilization improve medication adherence, especially for members that may have difficulty traveling to their local pharmacy.

A portion of this bill also prohibits additional accreditation and credentialing. This is a concern from both a patient safety and fraud, waste and abuse perspective. Credentialing allows us to verify that a pharmacy actually has a license to operate and ensures that the pharmacy is properly equipped to fill prescriptions. Accreditation allows us to verify that a pharmacy has the ability to service patients who may have unique needs such as a specialty pharmacy patient that requires additional monitoring, counseling, or training. Accreditation ensures the pharmacy is properly equipped to handle those kinds of medications and patients.

While PacificSource supports policy that provides better health, care and cost to the people and communities we serve, HB 4103 falls short in all of these areas.

We urge the House Health Care Committee to oppose this legislation. Thank you for your consideration and I'd be pleased to answer any questions.

Contact: Michael Becker, VP Government Relations, (541) 684-5257