



*"The only difference between a **medicine** and a **poison** is understanding how to use it" – Maggie Wells, MD, MPP*

SB 698 would require pharmacies in Oregon to provide prescription drug container labels in both English and a readable language for patients with **limited English proficiency (LEP)**. SB 698 requires a minimum of 14 languages, to be determined by the Board of Pharmacy. In rulemaking, the Board will work with pharmacies and stakeholders to implement SB 698.

There are approximately **222,000 LEP Oregonians**, or roughly 1 out of every 17 state residents, who cannot read the directions for their prescription medications.

"SB 698's requirement will address a discriminatory practice that leaves many Oregonians unprotected at a time when they are most vulnerable" – Oregon Nurses Association

Pharmacists, nurses and physicians testified in support of SB 698 in the Senate and House Committees, sharing stories of patients who could not read their own, or their children's, medication bottles, resulting in **life-threatening consequences**. In fact, one out of five emergency room visits is due to a preventable medication error.

"SB 698 is a vital step towards providing safe and appropriate care [...] This bill will help prevent accidental misuse of prescription medications that all too often lead to severe health risk, adverse effects, and even death" – Brian L. Michael, PharmD

The average cost of **just one hospitalization due to a medication error is approximately \$10,000**. The average cost to provide prescription container labels in 14 different languages is \$769/month. SB 698 will protect patients and reduce costs.

Supporting organizations:

- AllCare Health CCO, Inc.
- Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon
- Building Power for Communities of Color
- CareOregon
- Cascade AIDS Project
- Catholic Charities
- Coalition of Community Health Centers
- Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization
- McKenzie Pediatrics
- Metropolitan Alliance for Common Good
- Nurses for Single Payer
- Oregon Academy of Family Physicians

- Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office
- Oregon Health Equity Alliance
- Oregon Latino Health Coalition
- Oregon Nurses Association
- Oregon Psychological Association
- Oregon Public Health Association
- Oregon Society of Physician Assistants
- PacificSource CCO
- Passport to Languages, Inc.
- Portland Meet Portland
- SO Health-E Coalition
- Somali American Counsel of Oregon



English →

← Translation



MAY 30 2019