

Oppose SB 848 Sections 7 & 9

Preserve Oregon Health Plan Patient Protections

In 2009, the Oregon Health Authority was permitted to require “prior authorization” for medications not listed on the Practitioner-Managed Prescription Drug Plan list (“non-preferred” drugs), subject to exceptions including the following:

- If, after consultation with the Oregon Health Authority, the prescriber, in the prescriber’s professional judgment, determines that the drug is medically appropriate;
- It is a mental health drug;
- The request is for a refill for the treatment of seizures, cancer, HIV or AIDS; or
- It is a drug in a class not yet evaluated for the Practitioner-Managed Prescription Drug Plan (i.e., clinical review of the drug class has not been conducted).

OHA’s authority to require prior authorization for non-preferred drugs sunset in 2018. While SB 848 would permit the OHA to, once again, restrict access to medications, the bill fails to restore the vital patient protections that tempered this authority previously. Further, the bill eliminates the few existing provisions that serve as checks and balances on the prior authorization program.

We the undersigned, urge opposition to Sections 7 and 9 of SB 848. Patient access to necessary treatment depends on it.



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