

Good afternoon Chair Patterson and members of the committee, my name is Kathy Hinz and I am writing to you in support of Senate Bill 558.

Currently, insurance companies can require their members to fill prescriptions only from their mail order pharmacy. If their members try to order maintenance medication from a local pharmacy the insurance company will NOT cover the prescription.

Many mail order pharmacies will not bill the member's secondary insurance.

- Anyone who has secondary insurance will have to pay their out of pocket costs upfront and then bill their secondary insurance themselves; causing unnecessary stress, time and money.

- Many people with disabilities are on the Oregon Health Plan, which does not allow their members to self-bill. Insurance companies that only provide coverage if prescriptions are filled through their mail order pharmacies cause undue financial stress to people who have the Oregon Health Plan as their secondary insurance. In other words, whatever the primary insurance doesn't cover (co-pay/co-insurance/deductible) the person would have to pay out of pocket for their remaining balance.

Local pharmacies are integral to people with disabilities. It is hard enough to manage their medical needs without being forced to get medication from a mail order pharmacy. The local pharmacies get to know their patients personally and take care of their needs in a timely manner. This can not be said for mail order pharmacies.

Thank you for taking the time to consider Senate Bill 558.

Thank you,  
Katherine Hinz