



Memorandum in Support of SB 560
Senator Deb Patterson
Chair, Senate Committee on Health Care
900 Court St. NE, S-215
Salem, OR 9730

February 23, 2021

Dear Chair Patterson and Members of the Oregon Senate Committee on Health Care:

Please accept this letter as the National Infusion Center Association's (NICA) position on SB 560 and include it as part of the public hearing record. NICA is a nonprofit trade association that provides a national voice for non-hospital, community-based infusion providers that offer a safe, efficient, and more cost-effective alternative to hospital care settings for provider-administered medications. NICA represents the thousands of community-based infusion centers across the country, including those in Oregon. On behalf of the infusion providers we serve, NICA strongly supports SB 560 and the protections it provides Oregon patients.

When dealing with complex diseases, conventional drugs are not always effective, therefore biological products are sometimes the only hope for patients suffering from autoimmune diseases or other chronic illnesses. Naturally, these drugs can be extremely expensive. Copay assistance, also known as copay coupons or manufacturer assistance, allows patients to afford these life-saving medications by contributing to their deductibles. Copay accumulator programs that prevent copay assistance from counting towards a patient's out-of-pocket costs are simply reckless.

As I'm sure you know, it is more important than ever for patients to avoid preventable hospital visits, not only in terms of capacity but also in an effort to keep patients with pre-existing complex conditions away from potential exposure to other illnesses, like COVID-19. If a patient can no longer afford their medications and cost assistance is denied, we can only expect diseases to go unmanaged and greater hospitalizations for Oregonians.

The passage of SB 560 would allow Oregon patients to remain on their life-saving medications by ensuring that all payments made by or for a patient count. On behalf of the providers we serve, tending to patients battling chronic conditions for the rest of their lives, we sincerely request your support for SB 560, which would protect Oregon patients' access to care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kindyl Boyer".

Kindyl Boyer
Director of Advocacy, National Infusion Center Association (NICA)
3307 Northland Dr, Ste 160
Austin, TX 78731

