



February 8, 2022

The Honorable Rachel Prusak
Chair, House Health Care Committee
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: House Bill 4132 – DCBS Monthly Meetings with Providers and PBM Audits

Dear Representative Prusak and members of the committee:

Providence Health Plan is committed to ensuring that Oregonians have access to high-quality, affordable health care. We are writing in opposition to HB 4132, which would require the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) to meet monthly with providers of certain licensure types and study reimbursement trends for those providers, and separately, to require the Oregon Secretary of State conduct an audit of contracts between pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and the Public Employees' Benefit Board, the Oregon Health Authority, and any other state agency that contracts with a PBM for processing claims for reimbursement of prescription drugs.

At a high level, it is unclear why these two concepts have been joined in a single bill, or why the requested studies, audits, and investigations are necessary at this time. A bill to generate information should have a legislative purpose, and the purpose of these concepts is unclear.

DCBS as an agency is very responsive to stakeholder input. It is unclear why DCBS's meeting schedule should be dictated in the insurance code, and to what end the bill proposes to do so. The agency already accepts individual complaints from health care providers regarding Oregon health benefit plans and meets with those providers upon request regarding insurance-related issues. DCBS shares those complaints and concerns directly with health insurers to find a swift resolution. Provider rates for the licensure types described are not currently regulated, and the legislation does not clarify what trends this study bill is intended to shed light upon. An expensive study without a clear purpose is not a good use of time, talent, or funds for anyone involved.

Regarding the pharmacy provisions, we have concerns with a request to have the Secretary of State conduct auditing of any health benefit plan contracts without clarity regarding the concern at hand. DCBS regulates PBMs and has the authority and experience to request this information. Audits inherently carry considerable expense burden, so the purpose of an audit should be clear from the outset.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. We hope the committee will join us in opposition to HB 4132 and we look forward to further discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Baker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jennifer" and last name "Baker" clearly legible.

Jennifer Baker
Director of Government Affairs
Providence Health Plan