

Submitter: John Murray
On Behalf Of: patient access to local pharmacies
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure: HB3013

January 24, 2023

Dear Chair Nosse and members of the House Committee for Behavioral Health and Health Care,

Thank you for this opportunity to visit with you about a growing healthcare crisis. This crisis is the timely and equal access to medications for all people but particularly disadvantaged patients, patients of color and rural patients.

The 'PBM' bills before you today address the root causes of the decline of services and the increasing prevalence of 'pharmacy deserts'. Local pharmacy access value was well proven during the Covid pandemic by pharmacists providing about 70% of the vaccinations given nationwide. When people truly need help, they come to the most accessible healthcare professional in their community.

It does not matter whether its downtown Portland or Heppner Oregon, people look for help and get it.

Murray's Pharmacies in Heppner, Condon and Boardman serve some of our most vulnerable neighbors in rural eastern Oregon. From the Columbia river to Mitchell we serve over 3000 square miles as the only local providers. People literally drive hours to get our help; whether its antibiotics, pain medications following surgery, flu or covid vaccinations, diabetic medications, or professional advice on complex medication situations. The services we provide are real and valuable!

Corporate greed is destroying yet another strand of our good community fabric. It is a strand that if lost will cost us money and health. PBM's will try to say our medications costs will increase if these bills are passed, I call 'bullshit'. And this declaration is already backed up by other state's studies of PBM practices and I strongly suspect the Oregon Secretary of State's own study of PBM practices in the Oregon Medicaid program due out soon.

Its time for a change! Pay PBM's a flat fee of \$3.00 per prescription for the positive services they might provide, and thats it. Allow the savings to be used to maintain the drug delivery system Oregon patients rely on. PBM's are a \$200 BILLION Dollar per year industry, I suggest Oregon's portion could be better used.

Sincerely,

John Murray, Rph
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