



SB 608A – Provides much needed relief to pharmacies struggling with below cost payments and unreasonable dispensing fees.

The Oregon Pharmacy Coalition, together with the Oregon State Pharmacy Association (OSPA) and the Oregon Society of Health System Pharmacy (OSHP) support SB 608A.

This bill is a needed companion to HB 3013 which establishes PBM minimum professional dispensing fee payments to pharmacies per the Medicaid rate set by the State of Oregon. SB 608A prompts regular pharmacy cost surveys to adjust the Oregon Medicaid professional dispensing fee rate if the survey indicates an adjustment is needed.

The last adjustment was January 1st, 2018. Five years is too long without a fee update. Since the last update, there has been significant inflation in all aspects of the costs of running a pharmacy - rent, labor, software, data security, and increased regulatory compliance. Most pharmacies also have to pay the CAT twice as they have to pay the taxes of the drug suppliers and again pay the tax when they sell the drugs. In addition, it is reasonable to expect some profit as pharmacies will not open in pharmacy deserts without an expectation of profit.

SB 608A prompts a cost study this year and establishes a 3-year cycle. We believe this is exactly right and is critical to the sustainability of pharmacies throughout the communities of Oregon. Please vote to pass SB 608A!