

Submitter: Jenny Abeling

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB4113

Feb 6th, 2024

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice Chair Goodwin, Vice Chair Nelson and Members of the Committee:

I write to you today as an advocate for aging and disabled consumers and workers across the state. Oftentimes these populations have the hardest time getting their needs met in our healthcare and pharmacy systems. Currently, I am working with consumers and workers who not only are trying to navigate social security disability systems but also not being able to afford their copays, deductibles and coinsurance. Many people have high deductible and out of pocket max plans that they barely can afford the premiums on let alone additional costs at the pharmacy counter.

Working with so many people that are newly in need of care, oftentimes they are still on marketplace plans or employer plans that put them in the category of underinsured. When they go to the pharmacy counter, a surprise bill is not something that they can afford. Many times it is just that problem. People are enrolled in co-assistance programs without really knowing the back end mechanics of this business, so when those cost-sharing coupons run out, they are then faced with deductibles and copays that they cannot afford.

Our pharmaceutical model is broken and it is inflicting pain on families across the state. Usually it is the sickest amongst us who suffer with enormous costs at the counter. This bill would ease the burden of Oregonians when they most need it. In order for people to be medically compliant with their doses and care plan, we must ease the cost burden.

Thank you for your time,

Jenny Abeling