



Virginia Garcia Memorial
HEALTH CENTER

To: House Committee on Rules
From: Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center
Date: February 20, 2024
RE: Support HB 4028-2

Chair Fahey, Vice Chairs Helfrich and Kropf and members of the committee,

We are writing today to urge your support for HB 4028-2 which prohibits pharmaceutical manufacturers from imposing restrictions on federally qualified health centers.

Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center is a federally qualified health center, serving more than 50,000 individuals each year. Our health center's mission is to provide high quality, comprehensive, and culturally appropriate health care to the communities of Washington and Yamhill counties, with a special emphasis on migrant and seasonal farmworkers and others with barriers to receiving health care.

In Newberg, the majority of our patients are at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level. Approximately 82% of our patients are primarily covered through Medicare and Medicaid, and another 8% are uninsured. Each of these individuals rely on the 340B Drug Pricing Program to provide them with affordable medications. The 340B Drug Pricing Program requires pharmaceutical manufacturers participating in Medicaid to sell outpatient drugs at a discounted price to healthcare organizations that care for many uninsured and low-income patients.

Several pharmaceutical manufacturers are restricting sales of 340B-priced medications to community health centers' contract pharmacies. These restrictions severely increase burdens related to social determinants of health impeding patient access to necessary medications at affordable prices.

By law and mission, Virginia Garcia uses all savings from its participation in the 340B program to expand our patients' access to medication and other services, including our Reproductive Health Clinic program, Youth Development Programs through our School-Based Health Centers, and Clinical Pharmacy services. These funds also help to address many of the social drivers of health that our patients face, such as access to transportation. Without 340B savings, expanding and investing in these services would not be possible.

The 340B program allows Virginia Garcia to actively partner with their patients in their health journey. Patients often struggle with balancing the needs of providing for their family and taking medications that will save their lives. Access to the 340B programs help Virginia Garcia remove many of the barriers that our patients face.

Please support low-income communities across Yamhill County by voting yes for HB 4028-2.

Sincerely,

Dr. Laura Byerly
Chief Medical Officer
Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center

April M. Etheridge-Bosworth

April Higdon
Pharmacy Director
Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center