

Dear Members of the House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care,

As a pharmacist practicing for 20 years to serve the people of Oregon, I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 3212, which proposes essential reforms to the regulation of Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) in our state. I urge you to **vote "yes"** on this bill to promote fairness, transparency, and improved healthcare outcomes for our patients.

Each time I practice in a pharmacy I witness the impact of PBMs draconian billing practices as I routinely fill prescriptions for which our pharmacy is losing money. Asking a business to lose money on so many routine transactions would not be acceptable in other industries, and it should not be in pharmacy. Our profession is not even asking to make a small profit when dealing with PBMs, we're only asking to not lose money as pharmacies cannot sustain these losses over time. This has been reflected in the large number of pharmacy closures across the state and is also reflected in the long lines and wait times at remaining pharmacies. Our pharmacies can't rely on fair reimbursement from PBMs, nor can they really control the cost of medications, so the only consequential lever left is staffing levels, which are cut to the bone to hopefully break even, let alone turn any appreciable profit. PBMs have lacked sufficient regulatory oversight since their inception decades ago, and have used and abused their position to become several of the richest corporations in our country. Don't be confused or dissuaded by their extremely well-funded lobbyists, the bills listed below are critical to the viability of pharmacy and to adequately serve patients across our state.

We must **act now** to bring transparency to PBM operations and ensure that **patients—not corporate profits—remain at the center of our healthcare system**. Oregon has the second-worst patient access to pharmacies in the country, trailing only Alaska. Community pharmacies are closing at an alarming rate—not because they are thriving, but because they are being driven out of business by the predatory practices of PBMs.

HB 3212 introduces several critical provisions including:

- **Ensuring Fair Reimbursement:** The bill mandates that PBMs provide equitable reimbursement rates to pharmacies, preventing practices that could jeopardize the financial viability of local pharmacies and, consequently, limit patient access to essential medications.
- **Transparency in Drug Pricing:** By requiring PBMs to disclose the sources used to determine maximum allowable costs and to update these lists regularly, the bill promotes transparency, allowing pharmacies to make informed decisions and better serve their patients.

- **Prohibition of Unfair Practices:** HB 3212 prohibits PBMs from reimbursing pharmacies differently and from mandating that beneficiaries fill prescriptions exclusively at network pharmacies. This ensures patient freedom to choose their pharmacy and supports the sustainability of various pharmacy models.

These reforms are vital for maintaining the integrity of Oregon's healthcare system. They ensure that pharmacies can continue to provide accessible, affordable, and high-quality care to our communities.

I respectfully request your support for HB 3212 and the other PBM bills this session (HB 2149, HB 2252, HB 2253, HB 3226, HB 3223). Your affirmative vote will contribute to a more transparent and equitable healthcare environment in Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeff Fortner, PharmD