

February 2, 2025

As a dedicated pharmacist serving 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.

Irby Pharmacy in Vernonia opened in June 2023 to provide pharmaceutical services and prescription medications to the citizens of Vernonia and Columbia County at large. These Oregonians had been without services for many years and were having to make 90 minutes round trips just to fill and obtain these medicines and services. Many other Oregon communities are in similar situations.

Irby Pharmacy stands with other pharmacies across Oregon with this support of PBM reform. Many Oregon pharmacies, both independent and chain, have closed due to predatory practices of PBMs and the result is placing Oregonians at risk. Without access to pharmaceutical care and prescription medications, Oregonians are suffering and even perishing needlessly.

PBMs have argued that making the changes that HB 3212 propose would increase premiums for enrollees or for the entities that provide coverage for these Oregonians. Other states enacting similar legislation have, in reality, shown an overall savings.

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,

Wade Irby, RPh

Irby Pharmacy