

Submitter: Anne Harthman  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3212

To Whom it May Concern,

This bill helps small businesses like the pharmacy I manage help patients. Our pharmacies operating in Oregon have the unique ability to help patients. This could be hand delivering a medication before a snow storm or replacing all medications as quickly as we can when a fire has engulfed their house. Each pharmacist in our small pharmacies have many stories of helping patients in need. When patients can get their medications and have relationships with our local pharmacists - I have seen improvement in their health. Patient choice is incredibly diminished by predatory practices by pharmacy benefit managers (and the insurance groups that own them). With patient choice restricted- patient access is undermined.

I have seen major predatory contracts, amendments, and scare tactics used against independent pharmacies. All across our state it has been more difficult for patients to receive their medications as few pharmacies are left standing after these contracts. Many patients are forced to use mail order or specialty mail order medications. Please be aware, I have seen this required for regular generic medications and discharge medications (NOT TRUE SPECIALTY DRUGS). I have also seen requirements that maintenance medications also be filled with an insurance/pbm owned pharmacy. Many patients also receive letters in the mail to transfer or their medication will no longer be covered. One insurance carrier/PBM will deny a local pharmacy claim and reject it, they then make the patient call the insurance company/PBM to opt out of their mail order or pbm owned pharmacy. This is referred to as OPTING out - this barrier is another PBM tool to make filling at an independent more difficult (Most likely legal guidance to avoid laws in our state). Pharmacy benefit managers use the law and legal advice to avoid compliance. I am hoping this law is the start of getting compliance with our current laws and eliminating predatory practices. I have many colleagues in other states, and Oregon is behind regarding pharmacy protections and law. Many of the items in this bill have already been successfully passed in other states. These restrictions and predatory practices are seen heavily on Commercial plans AND Oregon Medicaid and State Employee plans.

Please review other states financial results as well - when patients had more choice, and pharmacy benefit managers were held accountable - the states spent less. Insurance companies and Pharmacy benefit managers will try to use scare tactics. They will also intimidate and undermine groups to make them believe new

regulations will increase costs - Please think about every Oregonian as you make your choices. Do not allow Pharmacy benefit managers/Insurance Groups to decide how we receive healthcare in our state. Oregon is the second worst in the nation for retail pharmacy access - change is needed now.