

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

I am a licensed pharmacist in multiple states, and have been practicing pharmacy for over 5 years in the state of Oregon. I work directly with the community of patients in Eugene and all over the state, as my workplace ships prescriptions everywhere in 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.

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. Every single day I deal with frustrated patients that are forced by their insurance companies to switch to a certain pharmacy (for example, mail order), or pay insanely high out of pocket copays for necessary medications, all because of PBM actions behind the scenes. Patients deserve the right to choose where they get their prescriptions filled, and independent pharmacies should not receive lower reimbursement rates from predatory 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,

Katherine Rowland, PharmD, RPh
Broadway Apothecary Compounding Pharmacy
Eugene, OR