

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

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.

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.

Our pharmacy serves the most vulnerable Oregonians in various types of Long Term Care facilities throughout the state. Without LTC pharmacies these clients will not be able to access vital medications and services we provide. Given the uncertainty and likely catastrophic changes with the Medicare Price Negotiations beginning in 2026, the passage of HB 3212 is more important than ever!

2024 was an incredibly challenging year financially for all pharmacies not just independents. If companies like Walgreen's (they are not the only ones) are expected to close 1200 plus locations over 3 years, how are independent pharmacies

supposed to survive? How? By working with state and federal legislators to stop PBM abuses of power and to be reimbursed adequately for providing services that enhance the quality of life of millions of Oregonians.

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 yes vote will contribute to a more transparent and equitable healthcare environment in Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Kenneth A Zientara RPh

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