

Submitter: Janale Moore
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5028

My name is Janale, and I have been a pharmacy technician in Oregon for 15 years. I am here today to express my concerns regarding the proposed 40% fee increase by the Oregon Board of Pharmacy. As a dedicated member of the pharmacy community, I've seen firsthand how difficult it already is to recruit and retain good help in our field, and this fee increase would only make these challenges worse for pharmacies, especially in today's economy.

The proposed 40% fee increase comes at a time when the pharmacy profession is already struggling with high turnover rates and a shortage of qualified professionals. It's hard enough to find skilled, dedicated pharmacy technicians and pharmacists, and this increase would make it even harder for small, independent pharmacies to remain competitive in attracting talent. Additionally, many pharmacy technicians, like myself, already don't make enough for the cost of living in today's economy. This fee increase could further strain pharmacies financially, leading to fewer hours for staff, less access to care for patients, or even closures of smaller pharmacies, all of which would hurt our communities."

While I understand that the Board requires funding to continue ensuring safety and regulation, I am deeply concerned about the timing and the size of this fee increase. We're already operating under significant financial pressures, and raising fees by 40% could have unintended consequences—raising prescription prices for patients, further reducing wages for staff, and potentially causing pharmacies to reduce staff hours or services. I urge the Board to consider alternative ways to address their budget needs without placing such a heavy burden on those of us working in the field or the communities we serve.

I ask the Board to reconsider this fee increase or at the very least implement a more gradual approach to avoid overwhelming smaller pharmacies, pharmacy staff, and patients. The shortage of qualified pharmacy professionals and the low wages in our field are already significant obstacles, and a sudden fee increase would only add to those challenges. I believe it's possible to find a solution that ensures the Board has the resources it needs while supporting the hard-working professionals who make up the backbone of Oregon's pharmacy community.

Thank you for considering my testimony. As someone who has worked in this field for 15 years, I care deeply about the patients we serve and the quality of care we

provide. However, the realities of working in pharmacy today—finding qualified staff, managing costs, and making ends meet—make it difficult to absorb such a drastic fee increase. I hope the Board will take these concerns into account and work with the community to find a fairer solution that supports both the profession and the people we serve.