

House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

March 5, 2025

RE: Support for House Bill 2385

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Nelson and Javadi, and members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care,

My name is Christy Trotter, and I am the Chief Executive Officer at Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic (YVFWC). YVFWC provides primary medical, dental, behavioral health, **pharmacy** and other enabling services to over 196,000 patients at 52 service locations across Washington and Oregon. This includes services at locations in Astoria, Clatskanie, Hermiston, Salem, Portland and Woodburn where we provide access to care to 52,595 Oregonians. These services are made available in part by the savings generated through the 340B program. The 340B program allows us to buy medications at a deep discount so that we can provide access to medications for patients who would not otherwise be able to afford them. In accordance with federal law, savings from this program are reinvested right back into our communities to expand services for our community. However, we have lost access to much of those savings due to the practices of drug manufacturers.

In May 2020, Eli Lilly announced that Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) must choose **a single contract pharmacy** where patients can access affordable lifesaving medication, undermining the program and putting vulnerable communities at risk. Since 2020, **twenty-three additional drug manufacturers** have restricted FQHCs to one or two contract pharmacies to work with to receive discounts on 340B drugs. These actions force patients to travel across town or across an entire county to access affordable lifesaving medication. While YVFWC has 18 locations delivering medical, dental, behavioral health, WIC and other enabling services in Oregon, only 4 are pharmacy sites. We rely on our contract pharmacies to ensure patients across our entire service area have access to affordable medications. Being forced to utilize only one contract pharmacy means we may not be able to provide all of our patients access to pharmacy services. For example, a contract pharmacy that provides coverage in Salem and Woodburn may not extend services to our more rural areas of Astoria or Hermiston. Our goal in directly providing pharmacy services and/or contracting with pharmacies where direct access cannot be provided is to ensure we reduce access barriers for the patients we serve. **When essential medications are not accessible and affordable, patients suffer.**

Since 1992, the 340B Drug Pricing program has helped patients access affordable medications by allowing eligible providers to contract with an unlimited number of pharmacy partners. Contract pharmacy arrangements are an essential part of the program. 340B providers like YVFWC, who by definition, treat a disproportionate share of low-income patients, contract with community pharmacies. These contractual arrangements allow patients to pick up prescription medication from their local community pharmacy without a return visit to the clinic, which can be time-consuming, especially for patients in rural areas. The arrangement eases patient access, improving medication adherence and health outcomes.

Central Administration

604 W 1st Ave, P.O. Box 190, Toppenish, WA 98948

📞 509.865.5898 | 📠 509.865.4337

YVFWC.com





Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic

House Bill 2385 will prevent pharmaceutical manufacturers from imposing restrictions on the number of contract pharmacies where FQHC patients can receive discounted 340B medications. This bill will protect medication access and health center services for all Oregonians. As such, we respectfully request your support for House Bill 2385.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christine Trotter".

Christine Trotter
Chief Executive Officer

Central Administration

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