



March 10, 2025

Senate Committee on Health Care Oregon State Legislature

RE: Support for SB 598 – Ensuring Equitable Access to Non-Opioid Pain Management

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Bioscience Association (Oregon Bio) supports Senate Bill 598, which seeks to ensure equitable insurance coverage for non-opioid pain management treatments. By requiring insurers to apply the same utilization review standards and cost-sharing structures to non-opioid and opioid medications used for the same condition, SB 598 represents a significant step forward in patient care and public health.

Oregon Bio is a nonprofit, membership-driven organization representing the life sciences sector across the state, including pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device, and digital health companies. Our members are committed to advancing innovative, evidence-based healthcare solutions that enhance patient outcomes and reduce unnecessary reliance on opioid medications.

While past efforts have focused primarily on overdose prevention, it is equally important to address opioid addiction at its source—by reducing initial exposure whenever clinically appropriate. A key strategy in achieving this is ensuring that patients have equitable access to non-opioid pain treatments without undue cost or administrative barriers.

SB 598 ensures that patients and healthcare providers can make pain management decisions based on clinical best practices. Currently, generic opioids are often the lowest-cost option due to insurance reimbursement structures, inadvertently steering both patients and providers toward opioid use. By requiring equal treatment for FDA-approved non-opioid alternatives, this bill promotes a more balanced and patient-centered approach to pain management.

Equally important, SB 598 sends a strong signal to Oregon’s bioscience innovators that investment in non-opioid pain treatments is both valued and supported by the state. Our industry is actively developing next-generation analgesic therapies that minimize addiction risk while maintaining effective pain relief. Ensuring market access for these treatments will accelerate the development and adoption of safer pain management options.

This legislation does not seek to limit access to opioids for patients who require them but instead ensures that all patients have access to a full range of clinically appropriate pain management tools. By removing systemic barriers to non-opioid treatments, SB 598 aligns with national best practices and ongoing efforts to address the opioid crisis through prevention.

For these reasons, Oregon Bio urges the legislature to pass SB 598. We appreciate your leadership on this important issue and stand ready to work with you to support policies that advance patient-centered, evidence-based care in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Liisa Bozinovic

Liisa Bozinovic
Executive Director