

Good afternoon, Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Nelson and Javadi, and members of the Committee.

I'm Bernadette Thomas, Chief Health Officer at Mosaic Community Health, a Federally Qualified Health Center providing comprehensive primary, behavioral health, dental care AND pharmacy services. We operate 16 clinics in Central Oregon and serve over 30,000 people. Over 60% of our patients live just at or below the Federal Poverty Level. We serve primarily Medicaid and Medicare patients from birth to senescence, and we also serve the uninsured and the underinsured – including those who have high deductible plans – that include large out-of-pocket co-insurance – or deductibles.

I am here today to support HB2385 and to respectfully request your support. This bill will protect medication access and health center services for all Oregonians.

I want to take this time to supplement that testimony to tell you about the programs that 340B revenue supports and the impact the 340B program has on the lives of our patients.

At Mosaic CHC, 100% of 340B dollars are reinvested in programs not traditionally reimbursed by health insurance, like community health workers, patient funds for small needs, and homeless outreach and street medicine.

These are just a handful of patient stories shared by our community health worker and pharmacy staff.

. . . a gentleman who hasn't been able to take his medications for 2 weeks because of cost . . . he and his wife left our health center feeling thankful to have access to 340B medications.

. . . a patient with chronic lung disease who cannot afford his inhalers . . . through 340B pricing he now has access to medications that prevent exacerbations and keep him out of the hospital . . .

. . . a Medicare patient who needs an expensive blood thinner to prevent stroke from recently diagnosed atrial fibrillation . . . their copayment was hundreds a month through Medicare, which they could not afford. . . with the 340B program the life-saving medication is \$6 a month. . .

. . . another patient needing access to medication for diabetes . . . who shares how LIFE CHANGING this program was for them. Their out-of-pocket costs went from well over \$500 per month to \$16 a month through 340b.

. . . a 65yr old veteran, lost OHP and medication coverage. Their lifesaving medication (blood thinner) . . . \$400+ out of pocket per month. . .to \$8 per month. . .the patient was grateful for that. . .

. . . a patient who needed compounded eye drops for surgery. . . a \$480 medication. . . . medication was completely covered through 340B.

When I shared with one of our Medical Directors about this important legislation and our testimony, he said, “I can give you five more stories from people that I saw today . . .”

We ask you to hold PhRMA accountable for their participation in 340B and support HB2385.