



## OREGON STATE PHARMACY ASSOCIATION

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### Chair Nosse and Members of the House Health Care Committee

900 Court St. NE Salem, Oregon 97301

### RE: Support for HB 4131 – Mobile Pharmacy Licensure

Chair Nosse and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Oregon State Pharmacy Association (OSPA), I am writing to express our support for **HB 4131**, which directs the State Board of Pharmacy to issue licenses for mobile pharmacies. This legislative concept offers a creative tool to expand pharmacy access to Oregonians, particularly those in underserved or rural areas that currently lack a brick-and-mortar pharmacy.

Under this proposal, qualified entities—including critical access pharmacies, hospitals, federally qualified health centers, and county governing bodies—would be permitted to operate mobile units to dispense medications. This has the potential to bridge the gap for patients who face significant transportation barriers to receiving essential pharmacy services.

### Concerns Regarding Implementation and Sustainability

While OSPA supports the intent of this bill, we have significant concerns regarding the regulatory and operational burdens that may hinder its long-term viability:

- **Location Restrictions:** The bill restricts a mobile unit from operating in the same location for more than 10 consecutive days or within a five-mile radius for more than 14 days. However, there is no restriction for a mobile pharmacy to be parked in front of a current brick-and-mortar pharmacy. We request that there be rules there is a minimum distance between a mobile pharmacy to avoid competition and a retail pharmacy with the exception of during an emergency declaration.
- **Timeline Pressure:** The requirement for the Board of Pharmacy to issue licenses within 60 days of application may be difficult to sustain without adequate staffing and resources at the Board level.

### Addressing Root Causes of Pharmacy Closures

While OSPA welcomes more options for our pharmacies to improve patient access to medications, we must be candid: **mobile pharmacies are a supplemental tool, not a cure for the systemic crisis facing Oregon's pharmacies.** We are concerned that this may be viewed as a "solution" to rural access without addressing the predatory practices of **Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs)** and the lack of formal **Provider Status** for pharmacists. These factors are the primary drivers of the "pharmacy deserts" we see today. **Without addressing underwater reimbursement rates and the administrative overreach of PBMs, even a mobile business model may struggle to remain financially solvent.**

We look forward to working with the Committee to ensure this bill is implemented effectively while continuing the broader conversation on stabilizing our permanent pharmacy infrastructure.

Sincerely,  
Brian Mayo  
Executive Director

***Leading Pharmacy, Advancing Healthcare***