

HB 4131: Improving Pharmacy Access

Pharmacy access is essential for disease prevention, medication adherence, and improved health outcomes. Pharmacists play a critical role as part of a patient's clinician led care team and are well positioned to improve access to care. National data tells us that patients visit their pharmacist nearly twice as often as they do their provider.

According to [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#), "Oregon has the second fewest retail pharmacies per capita in the nation" behind only Alaska. Pharmacy deserts create barriers to access for those who rely on life-saving prescription drugs to maintain their health.

Throughout our state, many patients must overcome a myriad of barriers in order to access prescription drugs and additional pharmacist services. Some must navigate transportation challenges while others struggle to balance work schedules against local pharmacy operating hours. Although the specific barriers vary from community to community, meeting patients where they are, through innovative delivery models and flexible service options, offers a promising path to improving access to lifesaving medications for Oregonians.

The common thread is making care as accessible as possible.

Allowing mobile pharmacies to operate as an extension of existing brick and mortar pharmacy locations, removes barriers to access by bringing services directly to underserved populations and rural communities, improving health outcomes, and reducing costs. By providing on-site, pharmacy services, mobile units can reduce emergency room visits, improve medication adherence, and offer a convenient alternative to traditional pharmacy settings.

HB 4131 is supported by a broad coalition of health care providers, and advocates

