

MEMORANDUM

To: Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Nelson and Diehl, and members of the House Committee on Health Care

From: Marty Carty, Government Affairs Director, Oregon Primary Care Association

Date: February 5, 2026

Re: Support HB 4131

Mobile healthcare is not a luxury—it is a necessity. For millions of people, traditional healthcare remains out of reach due to cost, transportation barriers, mobility challenges, work schedules, or geographic isolation. Mobile healthcare bridges that gap by bringing care directly to the people who need it most.

Today, nineteen of Oregon’s 33 federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) operate mobile health programs including primary, behavioral, and oral healthcare. FQHCs bring healthcare to neighborhoods, schools, shelters, and rural communities – removing one of the biggest obstacles to care: access. A simple preventive visit can become possible for someone who would otherwise delay treatment until a condition becomes an emergency.

Yet a gap remains – pharmacy access – 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.

HB 4131 is one step we can take to increase access to pharmacy services. Today, statute limits mobile pharmacy operations to times of declared public health emergencies. HB 4131 would change that to allow mobile pharmacies to operate without a special declaration. It also directs the Oregon Board of Pharmacy to establish rules for the safe operation and licensure of mobile pharmacies.

Mobile pharmacies meet people where they are. They bring essential medications, pharmacist counseling, vaccinations, and chronic disease support directly into communities. This improves medication adherence, reduces preventable hospitalizations, and helps people manage conditions like diabetes, hypertension, and asthma.

Mobile healthcare builds trust. When health care providers show up consistently in neighborhoods, shelters, senior centers, and community hubs, people are more likely to ask questions, understand their medications, and stay engaged in their care. This leads to better health outcomes and lower long-term health care costs.

In short, mobile pharmacies are not a convenience—they are a necessity. They promote equity, strengthen public health, and ensure that access to medication and professional guidance is based on need, not ZIP code or income. Supporting mobile pharmacies is an investment in healthier communities and a more just health care system.

The Oregon Primary Care Association (OPCA) is the nonprofit membership organization for the state's 34 federally qualified health centers (FQHCs). OPCA member clinics deliver comprehensive, culturally responsive integrated medical, dental, and behavioral health services for traditionally underserved communities. As a unifying voice of Oregon's FQHCs, OPCA drives transformative policy development to advance health equity across the state and beyond.

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