



Virginia Garcia Memorial
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RE: Support for HB 4131

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Diehl and Nelson, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Eva Galvez, and I am a family medicine physician at Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center, a federally qualified health center serving more than 52,000 patients across Washington and Yamhill counties. Our mission is to provide high-quality, comprehensive care to all patients, regardless of their ability to pay.

I'm here today to urge your support for **House Bill 4131**, which would allow mobile pharmacies to operate beyond declared public health emergencies. This bill is not about convenience; it's about access. It is about preventing treatable conditions from becoming a medical crisis, and supporting patients to manage chronic diseases effectively.

Mobile health services at Virginia Garcia is not a new concept. Our Mobile Outreach Program has a long history of bringing medical and dental care directly into communities, meeting patients where they are. But over the years, I have learned an important truth: that writing a prescription is only half of the treatment plan. Medications are only effective if patients can actually obtain them.

Let me share a brief example. Last year, I cared for a healthy 42 year old single mother of 3 at her rural worksite. She had a simple urinary tract infection, something easily treated with a common antibiotic. But her long work hours and distance from town meant she could not get to the pharmacy. Four days later, when she could finally get to the pharmacy, her infection had progressed to a kidney infection and she ended up hospitalized with sepsis. This was costly to the system, devastating to her three young children, and resulted in lost wages for her one income household.

I see the same pattern with chronic diseases like hypertension and diabetes. The problem is often not the lack of effective medications, it is non adherence to medications, because patients cannot reliably get to a pharmacy. For many rural patients, time, transportation, and gas money are real barriers. Some can make it into a doctor's visit only once a year and asking them to return every 3 months to pick up medications is simply not realistic.

HB 4131 would allow federally qualified health centers, hospitals, counties, and critical access pharmacies to provide more accessible, comprehensive, and effective care by integrating pharmacies into existing mobile health services.

I respectfully urge your support for HB 4131. Thank you for your time and for your commitment to improving health access for all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eva Galvez".

Eva Galvez, MD, FAAP

Site Medical Director, Hillsboro Primary Care Clinic

Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center