



MOBILE ACCESS TO PHARMACY

Expanding Access to Prescription Medications

Under current Oregon law, pharmacies must operate from a fixed, brick-and-mortar unless there is a public health emergency. While Oregon law allows mobile medical and dental units, it does not explicitly permit pharmacies to operate mobile units that dispense medications directly to patients in community settings.

As a result, many Oregonians, particularly in rural and underserved communities, face significant barriers to accessing medications, including long travel distances, limited pharmacy hours, and pharmacy closures. Oregon has the second fewest retail pharmacies per capita in the nation, creating widespread “pharmacy deserts” that disproportionately affect low-income, medically underserved populations.

What House Bill 4131 does:

This bill would expand the current statute to allow Critical Access Pharmacies, hospitals, county governments, and Federally Qualified Health Centers to operate licensed mobile pharmacy units.

Why is it important

Mobile pharmacies would directly address pharmacy deserts by bringing medication to patients rather than forcing patients to travel. This model is critical for individuals who:

- Live in rural or remote areas
- Work nontraditional hours
- Lack reliable transportation
- Rely on multiple or time-sensitive medications

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Oregon health centers already operate mobile medical and dental units that successfully reduce barriers to care by meeting patients where they live and work. Expanding this proven model to include pharmacy services would allow patients to receive prescriptions, counseling, and follow-up care in one integrated setting - improving medication adherence, health outcomes, and system efficiency.

Allowing licensed mobile pharmacies would modernize Oregon's pharmacy laws, expand access to essential medications, and strengthen the state's primary care safety net, all without creating new costs for the state.

OREGON PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

The Voice of Oregon's 33 Community Health Centers

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