

SUPPORT

Senate Bill 1528 A



What are patient assistance programs?

Patient assistance programs are initiatives by pharmaceutical companies that provide free or low-cost prescription medications to patients who take a particular drug. This can take the form of direct financial assistance to patients or contributions to nonprofits that provide financial assistance.

What's the problem?

Oregonians are struggling to keep up with rising drug costs. In order to lower costs for consumers, we need to know which drugs pose the most affordability challenges in our health care system. But patient assistance programs mask the true cost of expensive drugs.

While patient assistance programs reduce out-of-pocket costs for individuals, they can increase insurance premiums for everyone by incentivizing patients to take high-cost drugs—even when cheaper options are available.

Loopholes in Oregon's transparency requirements mean drug companies only have to report on a small fraction of their patient assistance programs in Oregon. This prevents Oregon from understanding the full impacts on patients' health care costs.

What's the solution?

SB 1528A closes the loophole by requiring drug companies to report on ALL patient assistance programs in Oregon, to allow better visibility into hidden health care cost pressures. This information will support smarter policymaking and help make prescription drugs more affordable for Oregonians.

For more information, contact the Office of Senator Deb Patterson
sen.debpaterson@oregonlegislature.gov

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