

**DEB PATTERSON
STATE SENATOR/SENADORA ESTATAL
DISTRICT 10/DISTRITO 10**



OREGON STATE SENATE/SENADO DEL ESTADO DE OREGON

February 26, 2026

Chair Bowman, Vice Chair Elmer, Vice Chair Pham, and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Deb Patterson. I am the State Senator for District 10, which includes South and West Salem, parts of Four Corners, Monmouth, and Independence. I am here in support of SB 1528A, which is about improving transparency in prescription drug pricing.

Oregonians are being squeezed by rising health care costs, and people in our communities are struggling to pay for needed medications. Our state is working to make prescription drugs more affordable for patients, but to do so, we need to know which drugs pose the most affordability challenges in our health care system.

SB 1528A addresses this by increasing transparency in patient assistance programs. Patient assistance programs are initiatives by drug companies that give financial assistance to patients who take certain medications. These programs help patients pay for their prescriptions—but they also mask the true cost of expensive drugs.

While patient assistance programs reduce consumers' out-of-pocket costs, they do not change the costs to the insurance company, which still has to pay the regular price. Patient assistance programs also incentivize patients to take high-cost drugs even when cheaper options are available. This raises costs for insurance plans and ultimately increases insurance premiums for everyone.

Oregon already requires pharmaceutical companies to report on patient assistance programs, but legal loopholes mean drug companies must only report on a small fraction of their patient assistance programs in Oregon. In 2024, Oregon collected data on just 33 patient assistance programs, even though there are an estimated 200 such programs available to Oregonians. This prevents us from understanding the full impacts on patients' health care costs.

SB 1528A closes these loopholes by requiring drug companies to report on ALL patient assistance programs in Oregon. To be clear, this does not change or increase the type of data collected, which includes information about patient eligibility and the level of spending. All this bill does is specify that all programs must report this information, so we can better understand the real cost drivers in prescription drug costs. This was one of the recommendations in Oregon's Drug Price Transparency Program, which has recommended this change for several years in a row.

It's becoming harder and harder for patients to afford the medications they need. Passing SB 1528A is something we can do now to promote affordability in prescription drug pricing.

I respectfully urge your support for SB 1528A.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deb Patterson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

State Senator Deb Patterson