



February 19, 2019

Chair Greenlick, Members of the Committee,

Cambia Health Solutions supports the Oregon legislature's efforts to bring more transparency to the rising cost of drugs and applauds your efforts to find solutions to reverse the trend. Cambia, too, is committed to be a partner in this effort, which is why we are proud to be offering our price transparency tool, MedSavvy, to our members as well as other health plans. We believe real savings can be achieved when consumers have access to all the information that will allow them to make sound decisions.

We support HB 2658, which calls for Pharmaceutical Companies to submit 60-day notice to the Department of Consumer and Business Services when they plan to increase their prices. We currently provide 60-day notice about formulary changes.

We also support the concept of restricting gag-order clauses on Pharmacists. We do not have gag order policies in place with Pharmacists and have no plans to implement such policies in the future. The bill contains one clause we do have concerns with. We believe requiring insurers to apply toward any deductible or out-of-pocket maximum imposed under a pharmacy benefit the price paid no matter how the purchase is made creates unintended consequences.

We have recently seen an uptick in instances of manufacturers agreeing to reimburse consumers when they choose to buy a more-expensive medication. Consumers may see no increase in their out-of-pocket costs, but the underlying impact is that premium rates are growing. There are several independent media reports about such practices, and we encourage the committee to seek out that reporting.

We are also concerned about the process of allowing cash payments to be applied to deductibles, coinsurance and copays. We are not able to confirm whether a consumer first looked into a benefit option and then chose the cash-price alternative because it was less expensive. The bill as written would require us to allow cash payments apply even if the benefit option was less expensive. This would ultimately raise the overall cost of drugs.

Thank you for your continued work on this important issue. I appreciate your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

David Robertson
Director, Clinical Pharmacy Services