



Statement on HB 2935

To: House Health Care Committee

From: The Oregon Pharmacy Coalition

The Oregon Pharmacy Coalition has concerns about HB 2935 which would mandate offering a prescription reader at the pharmacy window to assist a person who is blind.

The Oregon Pharmacy Coalition supports *voluntary* measures to provide services to disabled persons. In the case of prescription readers, Walmart, CVS, and Rite Aid offer this service at their pharmacies in Oregon which provides a resource for blind patients to obtain this service.

This service is not without cost. Pharmacies must buy and maintain licenses and pay fees to use the software and RFID tag technology and pay to integrate this software with their dispensing system (it may not be possible on some systems). Pharmacies would not be reimbursed for these costs by insurers or Pharmacy Benefit Managers and already operate on very narrow if not negative margins and any mandate of fixed additional expenses threatens the ability of a pharmacy to even exist to serve the public. Independent pharmacies are an endangered species in Oregon and mandated additional costs could make them extinct.

Most concerning about this bill is that there appears to be only one vendor for prescription readers. If this bill passes, it would appear to mandate use of a single commercial product. There is cause for concern because many pharmacies are not aware of this product being marketed. It appears to have gotten established with the Chains, such as Walmart, CVS, and Rite Aid through litigation by a single disabilities law firm which has a link to the product on its website.

In summary, we feel this service can be made available to all Oregonian's through existing pharmacies and mail order programs - perhaps with some additional considerations toward ensuring small outlets do not bear an additional burden.