

Providence Health & Services
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March 21, 2019

The Honorable Andrea Salinas
Chair, House Committee on Health Care
State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: House Bills 2840 and 2185 – Mail order pharmacy

Dear Representative Salinas and members of the committee:

Providence Health Plan is committed to providing safe, affordable pharmaceutical coverage to our members. We are concerned that House Bills 2840 and 2185, as introduced, would limit our ability to provide pharmaceutical coverage to our members in the most cost-effective manner.

Cost is a significant concern with regards to pharmaceutical coverage, and as such, Providence Health Plan strives to deliver services to our members in the most cost-effective manner possible. Mail order pharmacies are able to dispense prescription drugs to members at lower costs than retail pharmacies, and for many members are more convenient. In the face of rising pharmaceutical costs it is irresponsible to discourage the use of a mechanism that delivers services to members at a lower cost. Restricting the use of mail order pharmacies will harm Oregonians by increasing the cost of their health insurance premiums.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our input; we look forward to further discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen M. Noonan-Harnsberger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "H" and "M".

Helen Noonan-Harnsberger, Pharm.D, AVP, Pharmacy for Providence Health Plans