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Oregon Pharmacy Coalition Statement on HB 2935A:

The Oregon Pharmacy Coalition opposes HB 2935A. We have previously submitted testimony on our position. In addition, we would like to emphasize the impact on rural and small businesses. This bill would mandate a financial investment and ongoing fixed expense for every community pharmacy in the State of Oregon. Community pharmacies are already struggling to survive in our state and it is the combination of lower reimbursement rates and increased mandated fixed costs which is causing them to close.

Further, mandating a technology currently only provided by a single vendor would likely result in price increases which would make the problem of fixed costs to pharmacies worse.

One important factor to consider is that mandating this useful technology for all pharmacies, even though there may be no demand or need for these services will raise costs without commensurate benefit. In the context of this sessions concerns about rising drug costs to Oregonians, this seems counter-productive.

Any person in our state can already get this technology through mail order pharmacies and there are 3 chains currently providing this service. Perhaps a compromise would be to require a discussion and "referral" to one of these pharmacies if a pharmacy did not have this technology available for a patient who wants it?

We absolutely support access to reader technology for visually impaired patients who need it. This access is currently available without the need for a mandated technology expense in every pharmacy.

*For more information, please contact: Bill Cross & Niki Terzieff, OSPA & OSHP Government Affairs*