



Healthcare Distribution Alliance

PATIENTS MOVE US.

Oregon State Legislature
House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Management
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

February 2, 2021

Chairman Evans and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Management,

On behalf of the Healthcare Distribution Alliance (HDA), representing 35 primary pharmaceutical wholesale distributors, I am writing to provide the following comments for your consideration on House Bill 2461 and requesting the legislation include an advisory role for stakeholder input.

HDA members are the vital link between the nation's pharmaceutical and healthcare product manufacturers and healthcare providers. Every day, HDA members sustain a complex supply chain, working around the clock to ensure over 15 million healthcare products are delivered to over 180,000 pharmacies, hospitals, long-term care facilities, clinics and other healthcare providers across the country keep their shelves stocked with the medications and products that patients need.

Distributors are built from the ground up to rise to the challenge during public health crises and managing through disasters and other emergencies is a core part of their business. As the logistics experts, distributors work with their supply chain partners to anticipate and quickly respond to changes in demand. Directing lifesaving medicines to the frontlines, while continuing to meet the daily healthcare needs of all Americans. During the COVID-19 pandemic, distributors have taken proactive steps to ensure that pharmacies, hospitals, providers and patients have access to critically needed medicines and supplies. Distributors have spent years building relationships across the supply chain and optimizing systems to efficiently and effectively deliver medicines to where the need to go. HDA and our members are committed to working with the federal government and states to leverage our logistics expertise and relationships more broadly in the national response effort.

While we support the intent behind House Bill 2461, helping the state prepare and plan for future states of emergency, we would recommend the legislation incorporate an advisory committee consisting of representatives of wholesale distributors, healthcare workers, healthcare facilities, and other key stakeholder groups to make recommendations for the development of guidelines for the procurement, management, and distribution of PPE. It's essential for the state to engage with these stakeholders throughout the planning process as well as after implementation to ensure the state is establishing a comprehensive policy and circumventing any unintended consequences that could result without this direct feedback and partnership.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We are happy to help answer any questions the committee may have or provide additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leah D. Lindahl".

Leah Lindahl
Senior Director, State Government Affairs
Healthcare Distribution Alliance (HDA)