

Strongly Oppose

This bill requires benefit plans offered by Public Employees' Benefit Board and Oregon Educators Benefit Board to cover certain costs related to travel to Mexico or Canada to fill and refill prescriptions.

The PERS system has an unfunded liability nearing \$20 billion and sucks up taxpayer dollars with no end in sight. Adding a high cost pharmacy tourism program to the OPEBB will increase the burden upon taxpayers even more for a privilege that bypasses the protections of screening foreign drugs.

It burdens taxpayers for a jet-stream prescription plan flying to pick up drugs that can't be shipped into the US. Why can't they be shipped into the U.S.? Allowing an eligible employee or family member, who is not enrolled in Medicare, to fill and refill in Mexico or Canada 90-day supplies of prescription drugs subjects them to risks bypassing the U.S. drug regulations that are designed for safety. If an individual wants to take the risk, they can do it at their own expense and not on the backs of others raising prescription costs for everyone.

Further it provides transportation to and from a pharmacy and an overnight hotel stay. It requires the boards to coordinate the travel making them travel agents calling it a "pharmacy tourism program." Yet another cost to ratepayers for this service. This is not governments job.