

March 22, 2021



Oregon Progressive Party Independent Party of Oregon

Position on Bills at 2021 Session of Oregon Legislature:

Dear Committee: **SB 848: Support**

The Oregon Progressive Party and Independent Party of Oregon support this bill, which would

- Create the Office of Pharmaceutical Purchasing (Office) in the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to support multiagency and multistate collaborative purchasing of pharmaceuticals and reduce the cost of prescription drugs for residents
- Require the Office to coordinate statewide pharmaceutical purchasing agreements, administer the Oregon Prescription Drug Program, and establish and administer a multistate drug purchasing consortium.
- Authorize the Office to require prior authorization for drugs not on the preferred drug list.
- Require the Office OHA to evaluate whether changes are needed to the drug purchasing process of coordinate care organizations in order to improve the quality of care and reduce costs to the state.

The federal government is banned by law from negotiating with drug manufacturers for discounts on drugs provided by the Medicare program. The result is skyrocketing drug prices that are much higher than are paid by national healthcare systems in other countries. SB 848 would allow Oregon to pool its purchasing power with other states interested in reducing the cost of needed drugs for their residents.

Oregon Progressive Party

Daniel Meek

authorized legal representative

dan@meeek.net

503-293-9021

