



**Service Employees International Union – Oregon State Council**  
6401 SE Foster ▪ Portland, OR 97206

March 22, 2021

Chair Patterson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Katie Shriver, and I am here representing the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) to speak in support of SB 848.

SEIU is an organization of 85,000 working Oregonians. Our mission is to achieve a higher standard of living for our members, their families, and their dependents by elevating their social conditions and by striving to create a more just society. SEIU approaches healthcare policy from the perspectives of our members, who include care workers, hospital workers, airport workers, security workers, and public workers. SEIU also considers the effect of health policy on the Public Employees' Benefit Board (PEBB).

Prescription drug prices are a significant component of health care costs for SEIU's members, for PEBB, and for Oregonians as a whole. The Oregon Prescription Drug Program (OPDP) was created in 2003 and expanded over the past 18 years. The program unites Oregon's prescription drug purchasers to leverage the best prices on the most effective medicines by pooling prescription-drug purchasing power, developing a preferred drug list of the most effective drugs at the lowest cost, securing competitive discounts with pharmacies, and increasing transparency in the prescription drug purchasing process.

SEIU supports SB 848 because it builds on the work of the OPDP as well as Oregon's participation in the Multistate Consortium, leveraging purchasing power to lower drug costs. SB 848 will add the Office of Pharmaceutical Purchasing, which will serve as a central coordinator and help to reduce fragmentation among the state's drug purchasing efforts. The bill will also add legislative direction for the Oregon Health Authority to develop a Medicaid pharmacy purchasing plan that will improve provider and member experience and contain costs. These provisions better align pharmaceutical purchasing as a whole in the state, and we are hopeful that they could lead to further cost savings for PEBB.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.