

Dear Committee Members,

Please support House Bill 2648.

I'm a nurse in a Portland-area hospital. In a given day I have to work long hours treating dozens if not hundreds of patients. The work of a healthcare provider is always strenuous but now, in the midst of a pandemic, our workloads are particularly intense. In the best of times, I am a strong supporter of finding ways for patients to receive the care they need without a visit to the hospital or a physician's office. Now, in the pandemic, it is absolutely essential.

Requiring a Doctor's prescription just to get allergy or cold medication those in every other state can get over-the-counter means more patient visits and additional strain on health care provider and patient alike. Oregon is the only state that doesn't allow people to buy allergy medicine containing pseudoephedrine over-the-counter. Those with allergies don't need us to tell them they have allergies. Time spent seeing patients and writing unnecessary prescriptions means less time working on the people who really need our help.

Please help pass legislation that will end prescription-only policies for medicine with pseudoephedrine and help ensure that cold and allergy patients do not have to clog waiting rooms to get safe products that they can get over the counter in any other state.

Libby Patterson  
Portland