

My name is Julie Scott, and I am pharmacist in Sisters, Oregon. We moved about 18 months ago from North Carolina, and I have been shocked and saddened to hear that Oregon has only about 15% independent community pharmacies. Community pharmacies are historically just that, located in our communities and about 5-10 miles from all residents. Some estimates say that Americans visit their community pharmacy on average 25 to 30 times a year. So, we need these entities to thrive and continue to serve patients. I am writing in support of House Bill 2462, which would require pharmacy benefit managers to amend contracts with community pharmacies to account for costs incurred from new taxes.

Community pharmacies have been uniquely impacted by the corporate activity tax. Unlike other businesses, the price paid by the consumer is determined by a pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) or other third-party insurance payer, and not by the pharmacy itself. All PBMs and third-party payers require that a pharmacy charge the amount outlined in the contract (i.e., deductible, copayment, coinsurance), and explicitly prohibit additional amounts to be passed onto the consumer.

The financial viability for many community pharmacies is precarious and absorbing the corporate activity tax is simply not an option. Here in [insert location], not only does our community pharmacy provide medications, but it is a huge part in ensuring our community's health.

This bill provides a mechanism to maintain the Student Success Fund, while simultaneously addressing the business needs of community pharmacies. I urge you to support HB 2462.