

Dear Senate Health Committee:

My name is Jessica Wheeler and I am asking you to support HB 2648. I have lived in Bend most of my life and now work as a self employed hair stylist. Many friends, family, and clients, all deal with Central Oregon allergies, myself included. But that doesn't mean that junipers and pollen stop us from enjoying our beautiful outdoors.

As you know, if I, or a member of my family, need any common allergy medication with pseudoephedrine (or cold medication for that matter) like Claritin or Sudafed, Oregon law dictates that I have to schedule an appointment with my doctor, go to their office for a prescription then get that prescription filled. The last thing my clients need right now is me sneezing or sniffing behind my mask, let alone those symptoms would keep me out of work during COVID! But the multistep process required to get medication that you can access easily in every other state slows things down and often requires time taken away from work. It also takes more money out of the pockets of working families like mine in terms of copays and higher drug costs.

Being from Bend, I firmly believe in preventing meth production but I have not seen the hard evidence that this prescription requirement is responsible for curbing meth abuse in Oregon. I know from personal experience that it makes things harder for Oregonians. HB 2648 keeps pseudoephedrine medications safely behind the pharmacy counter but will eliminate many of the steps that currently burden people like me. Please pass this important bill.

Thank you,

Jessica Wheeler
Bend