



Oregon Society of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology

May 5, 2021

Chair Patterson and Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care:

The Oregon Society of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (OSAAI) supports passage of House Bill 2648.

OSAAI is a nonprofit organization composed of allied health providers and physicians in Oregon and southwest Washington who practice primarily allergy and immunology. The purpose of the organization is to offer support to the practicing Allergist/Immunologist and to the public at large, providing opportunities to promote awareness and education in Allergy and Immunology, and a forum to connect with other allergists in Oregon. We also work with other state and national groups that promote awareness of asthma and allergic diseases.

Oregon presents unique challenges for its citizens who suffer from allergy. In 2019, Pollen.com's top five worst cites for allergy sufferers were all in Oregon. Given that, it is important for allergy patients to have access to the treatment necessary to treat their symptoms. That, unfortunately, is a uniquely difficult proposition in Oregon.

Oregon is currently the only state that requires a doctor's prescription to purchase common cold and allergy medicines containing pseudoephedrine (PSE). PSE is found in some of the most popular allergy relief medications like Mucinex D, Sudafed, Claritin D, Allegra D, Zyrtec D, and several others. Current Oregon law prohibits Oregonians from accessing these medications without sinking in the time and cost of a doctor's visit.

For our purposes, it is difficult to watch patients spend their time and capital to access medications that can be purchased over the counter in any other state. This is especially true in the times of COVID-19. Passing this bill will allow easier and faster relief for Oregonians suffering from allergies and will free our dockets to address those patients with more severe conditions.

HB 2648 is a smart bill for patient and provider alike. On behalf of the Allergist/Immunologist community, we ask you to please support and pass House Bill 2648.

Sincerely,

Adam Williams, MD, FAAAAI
President, OSAAI