



House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 2762

Jan. 20, 2023

The Chronic Disease Coalition is pleased to offer our strong support for HB 2762.

Based in Portland, the Chronic Disease Coalition is a nationwide nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the rights of chronic disease patients against discriminatory policies and practices. The coalition was founded in 2015 and has since worked to advocate for people living with long-term or lifelong health conditions such as diabetes, kidney disease, multiple sclerosis, psoriasis, cancer, and other chronic diseases.

Our coalition advocates on many different issues across the country, but the common theme amongst them is protecting the relationship between patient and provider. This bill would have benefits to both.

HB 2762 enables decision-making to occur where it should – in a doctor’s office. Patients need to be empowered to make their own decisions about their own care, and this bill would ensure they have all the relevant treatment information when they are discussing a treatment plan with their provider. Currently, patients frequently have to navigate time-consuming and frustrating utilization management processes after the fact that can delay treatment and worsen their outcomes.

Patients make decisions about their healthcare based, in large part, on what they can afford. Yet, oftentimes, this information is not available until after they reach the pharmacy counter, where they may realize the treatment is unaffordable and may abandon the medication altogether.

Delays in care not only worsen the patient’s state of health, but also lead to increased utilization of more costly healthcare services thereafter. This is a system that does not work for the patient or our healthcare providers, who are then burdened with added administrative responsibilities.

The cost of care has always been a barrier to treatment, especially for Oregonians managing a chronic illness. It is critical to adopt practical changes that improve affordability by making



existing drug cost data for patients available at the point of care in real time, while reducing strain on pharmacists and physicians.

According to the [CoverMyMeds 2022 Medication Access Report](#), 79% of patients have gone to pick up a prescription to find that it costs more than expected. In the same survey, 87% of providers and 56% of pharmacists surveyed said utilization management methods prevent patients from receiving treatments that could help them most.

HB 2762 offers solutions that will leverage existing technology to strengthen patient-centered care; ensure decision-making happens in the most appropriate setting, between provider and patient; reduce tedious administrative burdens on providers; increase adherence to appropriate medications and improve quality and access for Oregonians with chronic conditions.

For the many reasons stated, we strongly urge your support for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

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