



## OREGON STATE PHARMACY ASSOCIATION

19363 Willamette Drive #260 • West Linn, Oregon 97068  
(503) 582-9055 • [www.oregonpharmacy.org](http://www.oregonpharmacy.org) • [info@oregonpharmacy.org](mailto:info@oregonpharmacy.org)

February 7, 2023

Written Testimony for HB 2626  
House Healthcare Committee

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, Members of the House Behavioral Health & Health Care Committee,

The Oregon State Pharmacy Association supports HB 2626, which will allow certain healthcare workers in rural communities a tax credit.

We respectfully request an amendment to the proposed bill that would include pharmacists as one of the healthcare workers that would receive the tax credit. Recruiting healthcare workers to rural parts of Oregon can be a challenge. This tax credit will provide an additional incentive to help fill vacant position, so pharmacies can serve their rural communities.

According to the National Community Pharmacist Association Annual Digest, Oregon had 248 independent pharmacies in 2008. Last year, we only had 90 remaining. Most of these independent pharmacies were in rural communities. Oregonians, particularly those in rural areas, are experiencing challenges getting their medications. These patients are experiencing significant wait times, reduced business operating hours, and the closures of pharmacies.

The Olive Branch Pharmacy in Enterprise closed on December 15, 2022. According to a news article in the Wallowa County Chieftain ([https://www.wallowa.com/news/local/olive-branch-pharmacy-to-close-in-enterprise/article\\_b188cf52-7a30-11ed-aeff-cb57be17a28b.html](https://www.wallowa.com/news/local/olive-branch-pharmacy-to-close-in-enterprise/article_b188cf52-7a30-11ed-aeff-cb57be17a28b.html)) the owner of the pharmacy is closing because he was not able to recruit a head pharmacist to Eastern Oregon to manage his small business.

We know several OSPA members who would appreciate this tax credit. Many of our pharmacists' members grew up in the rural communities this bill targets and always dreamed of serving patients at their hometown pharmacy. This tax credit will provide an incentive for them to move back to rural areas and serve patients in their hometowns.

Sincerely,  
Brian Mayo  
Executive Director

***Leading Pharmacy, Advancing Healthcare***