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March 6, 2023

The Honorable Michael Dembrow
Chairman, Senate Committee on Education
900 Court St. NE, S-407
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support of S.B. 551- Related to Secure Storage of Medications and Firearms

Dear Chairman Dembrow:

On behalf of the Consumer Healthcare Products Association (CHPA), the national trade association representing the leading manufacturers of over-the-counter (OTC) medicines, dietary supplements, and consumer medical devices, I'm writing to express support for S.B. 551. This legislation requires school districts in Oregon to provide online information to the public about the importance of secure storage of medications to avoid accidental exposure of medicine to children and to dissuade the intentional diversion of medications from their intended use.

CHPA has long been an advocate of responsible medicine use, safe medicine storage, and proper medicine disposal. We have education programs and partnerships focused on drug safety with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, America's Poison Centers, Safe Kids Worldwide, and the Alliance for Aging Research among others.

Additionally, manufacturers of pharmaceuticals fully fund and operate Oregon's drug take-back program. This program allows residents of the state to safely, and conveniently dispose of unwanted, expired, or unneeded medication in their homes at numerous locations strategically placed around the state.

Creating greater awareness among the Oregon public about safe medicine storage will empower parents, teachers, and students alike to act against medication misuse, and diversion. For these reasons, CHPA supports S.B. 551 and urges the Senate Committee on Education to pass the legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Carlos I. Gutierrez'.

Carlos I. Gutierrez
Vice President, State & Local Government Affairs
Consumer Healthcare Products Association
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cc: Senate Committee on Education
The Honorable Senator Janeen Sollman