



Oregon Senate Committee on Health Care
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

April 3, 2023

Chair Patterson and members of the committee:

On behalf of the Chronic Disease Coalition, thank you for the opportunity to provide support for SB 1085, a commonsense approach to expanding patient access to care at their local pharmacies.

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.

We are pleased to support this legislation, which would greatly improve access to care for Oregonians with chronic illness by allowing pharmacists to offer “test to treat” services for common conditions like COVID-19, influenza, and other illnesses. By doing so, we can deliver better health outcomes around the state because early identification and treatment are essential – especially for Oregonians already struggling to manage an existing chronic condition.

Chronic disease patients deserve more efficient access to the kind of “test and treat” health care that is outlined in this bill. For some chronic patients, being tested at one site and traveling to another to be treated is a significant barrier to receiving timely and efficient care. With SB 1085, we can address this obstacle using a proven method.

As chronic disease patients know very well, pharmacists and pharmacist technicians are an essential part of the care team. The pandemic has changed the delivery of care in numerous ways, and we must capitalize on these changes by allowing these qualified personnel to continue “test and treat” practices that make these conditions more manageable for patients.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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