



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

**Re: Support for HB 4149**

Feb. 6, 2024

Chair Nosse, members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of HB 4149, which proposes significant reforms to regulate Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) and enhance transparency in our collective efforts to lower healthcare costs for Oregonians. This bill is a crucial step towards creating a more accessible healthcare system that prioritizes the interests of patients, insurers, providers, and other stakeholders.

The Chronic Disease Coalition is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to raising the patient voice and perspective in healthcare policymaking. The coalition was founded in 2015 to advocate for people living with long-term or lifelong health conditions. Our patient advisors and partners represent common diseases (e.g., diabetes, kidney disease, arthritis), rare diseases (e.g., Guillain-Barré syndrome, hypoparathyroidism), and many other conditions whose scale and scope are still not understood.

Requiring PBMs to be licensed in the state of Oregon is an important step to bring accountability to this sector. Licensing ensures that PBMs adhere to established standards and regulations, which builds trust between PBMs, pharmacies, and the patients they both serve.

We also appreciate that this bill would streamline the appeals process between PBMs and pharmacies. In so doing, this legislation helps to protect the economic viability of drug stores, which enables them to continue providing essential services to our communities. The annual reporting requirement of certain information by PBMs to the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) is also an essential step towards enhancing accountability, and will help all of us better understand how the cost of treatment is set, illuminating potential pathways to make treatment more accessible and more affordable for chronic patients.

Finally, we're strongly supportive of the bill's provisions that empower covered individuals to choose their preferred drug store. This kind of flexibility promotes competition and ensures that consumers have access to a diverse range of healthcare options that best meet their needs — which is essential for chronic disease patients, who utilize these facilities more often than most Oregonians.

We believe HB 4149 takes a balanced approach to new regulations while still addressing critical issues within the pharmaceutical industry. Thank you for your time and I hope you will join us in support.

Sincerely,

Nathaniel Brown, director of advocacy  
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