

February 6, 2024

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

Re: Letter of Support – HB 4010 Section 3

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair Goodwin, Vice-Chair Nelson and Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care:

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for HB4010 Section 3 relating to 340B entity contract pharmacy restrictions. We, the undersigned organizations, all serve Oregon's most medically disadvantaged and historically underserved populations.

The populations we serve, particularly patients in rural areas and those with mobility and transportation barriers, are already disproportionately impacted when it comes to challenges accessing medication. This is especially true in "Pharmacy Deserts", or locations with more than ten miles between pharmacy locations.

Starting in 2020, at the height of the COVID pandemic, major drug manufacturers announced they would restrict access to 340B drugs to contract pharmacies used by covered entities and their patients. These restrictions increased significantly as other drug companies have followed suit. Manufacturer contract pharmacy restrictions limit the number of locations where patients can fill prescriptions and **deepens existing health inequities** many patients experience by making it more difficult to access lifesaving medications at an affordable cost.

We are deeply concerned that making prescriptions harder to fill will inevitably lead to some individuals **not taking their prescribed medications**, leading to more complex health issues, lower quality of life for the patient, and higher costs to the system funding their treatment.

Limiting contract pharmacy access also has a direct impact on the ability of 340B covered entities to reinvest in care for medically underserved populations. The 340B program is a vital mechanism that sustains patient assistance programs and services such as dental care, medication assistance programs, and substance use disorder treatment. Pharmaceutical manufacturers' constriction of the 340B program has and will continue to have a direct impact on patients and providers' ability to meet their health and social needs.

We, the undersigned, believe a robust network of contract pharmacies to be essential for access and health equity in Oregon. As such, we are proud to endorse HB 4010 Section 3.

