

# Pass HB 4113 to Help Oregon Patients



## What is prescription financial assistance?

Financial assistance options by drug makers allow these patients to pay less for their medications. Drug makers provide patients with financial assistance for expensive medications to make them more affordable, as if your friend gave you \$20 to help pay a bill.

## Why is prescription financial assistance being used in Oregon?

People with chronic illnesses, such as arthritis, asthma, cancer, diabetes, HIV, and hemophilia, have high medical expenses. Many patients rely on this kind of financial assistance to access their medicines.

## What is the impact of prescription financial assistance?

Two patients with the same disease and prescription can pay totally different prices if they have different insurance. The amount a patient pays for their medicine is determined by their health insurance company and its pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), who negotiate and set the prices.

## Why is prescription financial assistance in jeopardy?

Some insurance companies are changing their policies to no longer allow this kind of financial assistance to count toward a patient's out-of-pocket costs. This means patients could pay thousands of dollars more at the pharmacy or risk going without life-saving medicine because they can no longer afford it.

Our healthcare system has many flaws that need to be fixed, but the reality is insurance companies are taking away a cost-sharing tool patients have come to rely on.

## What will happen to patients if prescription financial assistance is no longer available?

Patients risk their health and treatment outcomes when they are no longer able to afford medications or ration their prescriptions to stretch dollars. Especially when a patient is not initially aware financial assistance options are no longer accepted by their insurer or counted toward their deductible, it can cause a major disruption to a person's livelihood mid-year.

## How can you help protect prescription financial assistance?

Tell Oregon lawmakers to pass HB 4113 to protect patients by prohibiting insurance companies from withholding financial assistance that allows patients to pay less for their medications.