

Chair Fahey, Vice chairs Helfrich and Kropf, and members of the committee.

I'm Dr. Jennifer McElravey, Director of Pharmacy at Neighborhood Health Center (or NHC as we call ourselves) here today in support of HB 4028's dash 2 amendments. NHC is a Federally Qualified Health Center providing comprehensive primary, behavioral, pharmacy, and oral health care to about 22,000 Oregonians across Washington and Clackamas Counties. 50% of our patients are low income with 30% living below the poverty limit.

We are funded in part by the 340B program which, as you heard, does not rely on taxpayer dollars. Federal law requires that 340B savings are reinvested into activities that expand access for safety net clinic patients in medically underserved communities and increase health equity. Savings from the 340B program allow NHC to fund the costs of dispensing medications to our low-income uninsured patients at our in-house and contract pharmacies for a nominal fee.

Since mid-2020, pharmaceutical manufacturers have refused to ship 340B drugs to health center contract pharmacies. NHC has a \$30M operations budget and has experienced about a \$2M 340B loss in revenue annually which has hampered our ability to reinvest in care for some of the most underserved Oregonians. More importantly, these contract pharmacy restrictions have decreased access to essential medications for patients who need them the most. Since we have 52 contract pharmacies and only one in house pharmacy, these manufacturer restrictions mean a patient in Canby or Milwaukie may be required to travel all the way out to our in-house pharmacy in Tigard to access an essential medication since they are no longer able to access it at a contract pharmacy close to their house. Many of our patients have barriers to transportation meaning decreasing medication access can be the difference between taking or not taking their prescription which could result in a trip to the emergency room and increased costs for Oregon taxpayers.

HB 4028 -2 will protect patient access to lifesaving medication, and funding for safety net clinics like NHC. It will mean that we can continue to offer comprehensive health care and programs that support patients' social determinates of health.

We believe holding pharmaceutical manufacturers accountable is more appropriate rather than putting this burden on taxpayers. Please support our policy to protect access to health care in communities across Oregon.

Thank you and I'm happy to answer any questions.