



February 20, 2024  
**HB 4028-2 - Support**

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

The Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO) is a non-profit organization that represents all of Oregon's 33 local public health departments. Local health departments protect and improve community well-being by preventing disease, illness and injury and have the ability to improve the health of all people living in Oregon.

The local health department is the foundation of the local public health system and each one adapts their strategies to protect and improve community well-being to fit local contexts and circumstances

Local Public Health Authorities are safety net providers that meet patients where they are and are beacons in their communities. LPHAs not only provide access to clinical services but are where we turn to when a global pandemic comes to Oregon. We rely on LPHAs to maintain vital records, investigate and report communicable diseases (e.g. COVID-19, measles, TB), lead county emergency preparedness planning and response. LPHAs also provide family planning, immunizations, and maternal and child health services to some of Oregon's most vulnerable populations including.

LPHAs are required by law to protect the public's health from the spread of disease and promote health in local communities and much of that work is state funded. However, LPHAs also rely on the 340B Program to provide Oregonians with access to low-cost medication in both urban and rural settings across the state. Without access to this vital program, LPHAs would pay more for prescription drugs and would rely on taxpayers to offset the added cost. Patients can access medication at reduced or no cost because of the 340B Program.

Medication access and adherence are both inextricably tied to the social determinants of health. LPHAs play a central role in ensuring, for example, that patients with communicable diseases don't infect their communities and receive the treatments they need to recover and safely rejoin the community. The 340B Program is a lifeline for both LPHAs and the communities they serve.

In closing, we cannot stress enough the critical nature of the 340B Program. We hope this legislature will hold drug manufacturers accountable just as Arkansas and Louisiana have done. States should not have to shoulder increased financial pressures because pharmaceutical manufacturers – through their own internal policies – are rewriting public





# OREGON COALITION OF LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS

Representing the collective interests  
of Oregon's 33 local public health  
authorities to improve the health of  
all Oregonians.

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policy and shifting the burden of increasingly costly life saving medications onto Oregonians and the state.

CLHO supports HB 4028 with the -2 amendment and for the reasons above we ask this committee to do the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Lochner". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sarah Lochner  
Executive Director  
Oregon CLHO

