

HEALTH DELIVERED

February 4, 2025

Chair Representative Rob Nosse House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care 900 Court Street, NE Salem, OR 97301

Chair Nosse and Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care,

On behalf of the Healthcare Distribution Alliance (HDA), representing the nation's primary healthcare wholesale distributors, I am writing to encourage your support of House Bill 3223.

HDA is the national trade association representing healthcare wholesale distributors which serve as the critical logistics provider within the healthcare supply chain, adding efficiency, security and keeping the healthcare system functioning every day. HDA members work 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to ensure approximately 10 million healthcare products per-day, including specialty drugs, are safely and securely delivered to more than 330,000 providers across the country every single day.

HB 3223 is seeking to target the practice of "white bagging," which is an arrangement between insurance companies and designated specialty pharmacies to ship physician-administered medications directly to sites of care (i.e., hospitals, clinics, doctors' offices) after they have been prescribed by the attending physician. Most U.S. hospitals and physician offices maintain inventories of medications their patients need which can be immediately available when the patient arrives for treatment based on that patient's real-time needs. When a patient's medication, while potentially available at the site of care, must instead be dispensed and shipped from an off-site specialty pharmacy, this practice has the potential to delay access to treatments.

While delaying treatment is burdensome on the patient as well as the physician providing care, white bagging practices introduce additional concerns as well. Such concerns include ensuring the proper storage and handling of these products which in turn may increase provider liability. The creation of increased drug waste due to the product being specified for a specific beneficiary.

Complex drug therapies for rare diseases require timely access and enhanced physician oversight of storage, dosing, and administration. Patients trust their doctors to care for them. Any policies that prevent physicians or pharmacies from delivering timely access and safe administration of medically necessary drugs should be opposed. For these reasons, we respectfully request your support of House Bill 3223.

Thank you,

Leah D. Lindahl

Leah Lindahl Vice President, State Government Affairs Healthcare Distribution Alliance