

Submitter: Marshall Thompson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5028

Regarding the proposed 40% increase to pharmacy-related license fees:

Speaking as a registered Oregon pharmacist for over 26 years, such a sudden and dramatic increase to our license fee is oppressive, especially given that our wages have not increased commensurate with inflation in at least the last 4 to 5 years. In addition, the diminishing reimbursements paid by pharmacy benefit managers are putting pressure on employers not only to demand more work from pharmacists with fewer paid hours, but to increasingly assign duties to technicians that were previously the sole purview of pharmacists. The opportunities for pharmacist jobs will inevitably decline in time, further putting downward pressure on pharmacist wages. Clinical jobs do not and will not exist to the extent that pharmacists will be able to horizontally transfer en masse from retail positions. Primarily for these reasons I am of the opinion that such an increase is at the very least highly inappropriate.

Marshall Thompson, RPh