

Emerson Levy
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
House District 53



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 25, 2025

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Nelson and Javadi, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for your time discuss my prescription drug coupon package, consisting of House Bill's [3082](#), [3086](#), and [3092](#). For the record, my name is Emerson Levy, and I am the State Representative for House District 53, representing Bend, Redmond, Sisters and Tumalo. Many of you may remember HB 4113 from Oregon's 2024 Legislative Session- the bill I brought forward which banned the practice of prohibiting enrollees from using co-pay assistance provided by a pharmaceutical manufacturer to meet their annual deductible. This bill passed and I am so proud of the impact it has had on our constituents with rare diseases who rely on coupons to receive their life saving medication. There is much work to still be done, and the bills I am discussing today are a continuation of the work we have done as a Legislature on prescription drug coupons.

The legislation I bring before you today is another step to bringing balance to a system that has left patients unable to pay for expensive medication and therefore reliant on costlier emergency room care. Oregonians who pay for their insurance should be able to use it, but because of co-pay limiter programs, each visit to the pharmacy counter can be a game of healthcare roulette.

In Oregon, some patients have to either pay out of pocket for prescription drugs or stop taking them altogether because not all insurance companies are required to accept financial assistance toward an enrollee's annual deductible. In 2024, the Public Employees' Benefit Board and the Oregon Educators Benefit Board were excluded from HB 4113. No one should be left out of this important legislation, including the public employees and educators who are the backbone of our communities. So, this year- we are hoping to include those health care plans. House Bill 3086 and 3092 do two simple things. HB 3086 includes PEBB plans, and HB 3092 includes OEGB plans.

House Bill 3082 is the result of our workgroup on prescription drug coupons from this past interim. A lot of questions were left unanswered, and the reason being: we simply need more data. At the moment, we don't know how many people are using patient assistance programs. House Bill 3082 is another simple bill that will help us tremendously in the long run.

The assistance programs that prescription drug manufacturers offer help our constituents get the medication they need- but we need more transparency. HB 3082 will ensure that manufacturers report the total number of consumers who participate in their patient assistance programs to Oregon's Department of Consumer and Business Services.

This bill helps us understand a larger context of prescription drug price increases. There has been a dramatic increase in drug prices in past years, and this added data point may allow us to understand how patient assistance programs are offsetting drug prices. We need to gather this important data to make further informed decisions about how to protect our consumers, who include our most vulnerable Oregonians who need their medication to survive.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Levy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and larger than the others.

Emerson Levy,

State Representative, House District 53