



March 4, 2025

Subject: Support for Senate Bill 707 – Corporate Activity Tax (CAT) Exemption

Dear Senator Merkley,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 707, which seeks to provide an exemption for certain Oregon pharmacies from the Oregon Corporate Activity Tax (CAT). As the owner of Malheur Drug, a critical access pharmacy located in Vale, Oregon, I believe this exemption is essential to ensuring the survival of small independent pharmacies in our state. Independent pharmacies play a critical role in providing accessible, personalized healthcare to Oregonians, especially in rural and underserved communities. However, the financial burden imposed by the Corporate Activity Tax has placed immense pressure on these small businesses, threatening their ability to remain viable. Unlike large corporate chains, independent pharmacies operate on tight margins and are disproportionately affected by the tax, which can lead to reduced services, higher prescription costs, and even pharmacy closures.

By exempting small pharmacies from the CAT, Senate Bill 707 would help preserve these vital healthcare providers and protect the communities that rely on them. This measure is not just about supporting small businesses - it is about safeguarding healthcare access for thousands of Oregonians who depend on their local pharmacies for essential medications, immunizations, and expert guidance on managing their health.

I urge you and your colleagues to support the passage of SB 707 and advocate for the sustainability of independent pharmacies in Oregon. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. Tolman, Pharm.D.
President and Pharmacist-in-Charge