

House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care,

As the President-elect of the Oregon Society of Health System Pharmacists (OSHP), I am writing to express our support for House Bill 2942, which mandates the Oregon Health Authority and coordinated care organizations reimburse pharmacies and pharmacists in the same manner as other health care providers for pre and post-HIV exposure prophylactic antiretroviral treatment.

This legislation will enhance access to care for patients and promote the sustainability of pharmacy services in our communities. By compensating pharmacists fairly, we can continue to offer high-quality, patient-centered care and support the broader health care system's efforts to combat HIV. Equitable reimbursement will also facilitate greater collaboration between pharmacists and other health care providers allowing us to take better care of patients who might otherwise contract HIV.

Pharmacists are already strong advocates for appropriate antibiotic use, ensuring that medications are used safely and effectively. Additionally, pharmacists are often the most accessible health care providers in rural areas, where access to medical services can be limited. By supporting House Bill 2942, we can ensure that patients in these underserved areas receive the comprehensive care they need.

On a personal note, my mother was a pharmacist at Kaiser Permanente in the 1990s, treating HIV patients during a time when the disease was highly stigmatized and treatment options were limited. Her dedication and compassion for her patients were inspiring, and it is heartening to see how far we have come in the fight against HIV. Today, we are able to prevent so much of the heartache that comes with an HIV exposure or an HIV diagnosis. But there is still much work to be done to protect our most vulnerable Oregonians. House Bill 2942 is a crucial step in continuing this progress.

In conclusion, I urge you to support House Bill 2942. This legislation is a crucial step toward recognizing the essential role of pharmacists in HIV care and ensuring that patients receive the comprehensive services they need. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Stacey Olstad
President-elect, Oregon Society of Health System Pharmacists