March 4, 2025



HEALTH DELIVERED

Oregon State Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue 900 Court St. NE Salem Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Meek, Vice Chair McLane and honorable members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue:

On behalf of the Healthcare Distribution Alliance (HDA), we are writing in support of both Senate Bill 382 and Senate Bill 707 which would seek to exempt certain pharmacy drug sale receipts from Oregon's corporate activity tax (CAT).

HDA is the national trade association representing 40 primary pharmaceutical wholesale distributors. Every day HDA members work around the clock to safely and efficiently ship over 10 million healthcare products to nearly 330,000 pharmacies, hospitals and other healthcare providers across the nation, including over 3,300 sites of care in Oregon. Distributors operate a unique role in the supply chain. They do not set list prices, determine reimbursements, or play any role in determining the amount patients pay for medicines. Rather, distributors are the logistical experts in the supply chain who ensure products are physically on pharmacy shelves where and when patients need them. Due to the efficiencies achieved by wholesale distributors, HDA members generate up to \$60 billion in cost savings each year to our nation's healthcare system while operating on an average net profit margin under 1 percent.¹

Healthcare wholesale distribution is a high-volume, high-value, yet very low margin industry. Studies have shown that Gross Receipts Taxes disproportionately impact the healthcare costs.² Applying taxes within the healthcare system compounds costs throughout the supply chain, thereby increasing the costs for Oregonians. The Oregon legislature has already taken many steps to address high healthcare costs and support the state's pharmacies, exempting healthcare receipts from the tax rate would ensure that these efforts are not done in vain. For these reasons, HDA supports SB 382 and SB 707 and asks the committee to favorably pass the legislation.

Please feel free to contact me at Llindahl@hda.org or (303) 829-4121 should you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Leoh D. Linchahl

Leah Lindahl Senior Director, State Government Affairs

¹ HDA Research Foundation, 95th Edition HDA Factbook (2024–2025), <u>https://www.hda.org/publications/95th-edition-hda-factbook-the-facts-figures-and-trends/</u>

² Tax Foundation, Resisting the Allure of Gross Receipts Taxes: An Assessment of their Costs and Consequences, https://taxfoundation.org/research/all/federal/gross-receipts-tax/