



Kristen Erickson

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To the Esteemed Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

Making the Corporate Activity Tax (CAT) exemption permanent is a necessary stabilization measure for pharmacy access in Oregon. It is one step towards helping independent pharmacies attempt to remain viable, retain staff, and continue serving our communities.

As the owner of Westside Pharmacy in Bend, I am already deep in battle against predatory reimbursement rates from Insurers and Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) that often pay us less than the cost of medications. We're facing a very real struggle to exist.

The CAT, as it currently applies to prescription drugs, is an unsustainable burden. Unlike our wholesalers, we can't pass these costs to consumers. Our prices are fixed by third-party payers, meaning the CAT directly erodes our already fragile profitability. We're effectively double-taxed and have no way to recoup these expenses.

Oregon has now fallen to last place for patient pharmacy access. The financial pressures leading to pharmacy closures is leaving many Oregonians without reliable care.

Making the CAT exemption for prescription drug sales permanent is critical if we hope for independent pharmacies to survive and patients throughout the state to have access to medications, vaccines, and care. It's an investment in the health of all Oregonians.

Thank you,

Kristen Godfrey Erickson

Owner, Westside Pharmacy