

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1528

Feb. 6, 2026

Chair Patterson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mary Anne Cooper, and I am the Director of Public Affairs and Government Relations at Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon. As one of the state's largest health insurers serving nearly 1 million Oregonians, Regence is committed to affordability as a core priority where 90% of every premium dollar goes directly to our members' medical claims and expenses.

I am writing today to express Regence's support for SB 1528 and its proposed amendment to expand prescription drug price transparency requirements. As we consistently witness the profound impact of rising prescription drug costs on our members and the broader health care system, we recognize that the affordability crisis demands greater transparency. Prescription drug spending is one of the fastest-growing components of health care costs, directly affecting premium affordability, patient out-of-pocket (OOP) expenses, employer benefit sustainability, and state program budgets.

Regence has experienced how manufacturer assistance programs impact overall costs and affordability. As a result of Oregon's ban on copay accumulator programs, we no longer prevent manufacturer coupon dollars from counting toward member deductibles and OOP maximums. While this policy was intended to help patients afford their prescriptions, it has resulted in millions of dollars of additional costs across health plans which are ultimately reflected in premiums paid by members. When coupons artificially lower OOP costs for brand-name drugs, they can also steer patients away from other effective and lower-cost alternatives which drives up overall spending.

The required reporting by SB 1528 will provide the state with critical data on how these programs function in Oregon, how patients use them, the value of assistance provided and the eligibility structures within the programs. With this information, legislators can explore new solutions to maximize manufacturer assistance for those who truly need it while



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preventing these programs from being used as marketing tools to drive higher drug prices.

Prescription drug costs are not a problem any single entity can solve alone, but transparency is a critical first step. We urge the committee to support this thoughtful expansion of Oregon's leadership in drug price transparency. Thank you for your consideration and continued commitment to health care affordability in Oregon.

Respectfully,

Mary Anne Cooper
Director of Public Affairs and Government Relations
Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon