

# STATE OF OREGON



## NEWS RELEASE

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# STATE LEADERS ASK PHARMACY BOARD TO PRIORITIZE EMERGENCY INSULIN

(SALEM) –Secretary of State Dennis Richardson, Senate President Peter Courtney and Senator Dennis Linthicum today requested that the prescribing and dispensing of diabetic supplies and emergency insulin be made a priority when the Board of Pharmacy considers new rules under authority granted to pharmacists in legislation approved earlier this year.

House Bill 2397 expanded the role of pharmacists in making sure patients have access to medications. The measure passed both the House and Senate unanimously and was signed into law by the governor on May 18.

“Diabetes is a highly manageable illness, but only if diabetics have access to their medication. Our hope is by changing the prescribing rules we can ensure that all diabetic Oregonians can live long, productive and fulfilled lives,” the three state leaders said in a letter to the board’s Executive Director Marcus Wyatt.

Richardson and Linthicum are both insulin dependent diabetics and two of Courtney’s staff members have children who are insulin dependent diabetics. The three leaders said they have heard stories about children running out of insulin because of unforeseen pump changes or a broken vial; parents pleading with insurance companies to cover a few more testing strips to get through the month; and Oregonians being rushed to the emergency room because they don’t have the insulin and supplies they need.

“We hope this rule change will prevent situations like these,” the group said. “Please let us know if you feel HB 2397 doesn’t provide you with the right tools to make this change. Diabetes is an important issue to us and we are dedicated to working on additional legislative solutions if you find them necessary.”