

From the Offices of Representative Nancy Nathanson, Representative Bobby Levy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 14, 2025

Press Contact:

Office of Rep. Nathanson, <u>rep.nancynathanson@oregonlegislature.gov</u> Office of Rep. Levy, <u>rep.bobbylevy@oregonlegislature.gov</u>

Oregon House Unanimously Passes Bill to Strengthen Protections for Pharmacies and Regulate Pharmacy Services Administrative Organizations (PSAOs)

Salem, OR – Today, Oregon lawmakers in the House unanimously passed <u>HB 3226A</u> to protect Oregon's remaining pharmacies against corporate practices squeezing them out of business. Oregon has lost dozens of pharmacies each year and has the <u>second fewest retail</u> <u>pharmacies per capita in the nation</u>.

HB 3226A requires PBMs to follow the law governing fair practices with pharmacies when the pharmacy contracts directly with a PBM or through a Pharmacy Services Administrative Organization (PSAO). PSAOs will be required to be licensed as a third-party administrator (TPA) with the Department of Consumer and Business Services unless they meet certain criteria to be exempt. The bill builds off bipartisan work in prior sessions to rein in middle-man Pharmacy Benefit Managers, protecting pharmacies from unfair PBM business tactics.

"We're making clear legislative intent," said **Rep. Nancy Nathanson (D-North Eugene)**, "Pharmacy Benefit Managers must follow the law. They'll have to treat pharmacies fairly whether the contract is signed by the pharmacy or by an administrator that contracts on their behalf. There should be no excuse for not following the law."

In 2024, Rep. Nathanson and Rep. Levy chief sponsored and passed <u>HB 4149</u> to stop PBMs from unjust fees and clawbacks and require greater transparency into the PBM money stream.

"For rural and independent pharmacies, every dollar counts. HB 3226 ensures fairness by holding all pharmacy benefit players to the same standards—helping us keep essential healthcare access alive in communities across the state" said **Rep. Bobby Levy (R-Echo)**.

HB 3226A now moves to the Senate for consideration.

