



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Increasing Transparency for Prescription Drug Costs

SALEM, OR – Today, the Senate passed critical legislation to improve patient access to medication. [House Bill 4149](#), will improve regulation of pharmacy benefit managers to increase transparency about cost and practices and decrease barriers to affordable prescription drugs.

“Pharmacy Benefit Managers can make it harder for patients to understand the cost of their prescription drugs,” said **Senator Deb Patterson (D - Salem)**, chief sponsor of HB 4149 and chair of the Senate Health Care Committee. “This bill is an important step to ensuring that Oregon patients have the prescriptions they need at a price they can afford.”

Pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) are companies that manage prescription drug benefits on behalf of health insurers and payers. PBMs operate in the middle of the prescription drug supply chain, acting as brokers between payers, drug manufacturers, and pharmacies, thereby influencing drug availability, drug pricing, and pharmacy reimbursement.

HB 4149 requires PBMs to be licensed, to report additional information to DCBS, and prohibits PBMs from discriminating against [340B drug](#) dispensing and from setting limits on the number of pharmacies in a network that can dispense 340B drugs.

Lowering rising costs for hard-working Oregonians is a key pillar of Senate Democrats’ [2024 Uniting Oregon Agenda](#). The bill now goes to the Governor’s desk for consideration.

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