



## **OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS**

Salem, Oregon  
Oregon State Legislature

### **PRESS RELEASE**

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CONTACT: Amanda Kraus, 503-986-1074

Amanda.Kraus@oregonlegislature.gov

Emily Mooney, 503-986-1710

Emily.Mooney@oregonlegislature.gov

### **Senator Patterson Passes Bill to Address Sexism in Pharmaceutical Pricing**

SALEM – Today the Oregon Senate Democrats passed Senate Bill 711. A bill to address disparities across gender for certain pharmaceuticals.

“Many of us have heard of the ‘pink tax,’ which is a term used to describe the ways in which products marketed to women cost substantially more than those marketed to men,” said Senator Deb Patterson (D-Salem) who carried Senate Bill 711. “Evidence suggests the ‘pink tax’ exists in our medical system, including pharmaceutical pricing.”

Senate Bill 711 directs the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) to study disparities in the cost of hormone replacement drugs that are most frequently used by women compared to those most frequently used by men. DCBS would conduct this study as part of their Prescription Drug Price Transparency program. These drugs are typically used to promote sexual wellness and function, and disparities in cost have been reported in relation to a variety of these treatments.

“Oppression and sexism are present across systems in Oregon – unfortunately, that includes our health care system and the price one pays for their health and wellbeing,” said Senator Patterson. “By tasking DCBS with this study, the Legislature will be thoroughly informed on what action is most appropriate to address this disparity and will ensure fairness in our drug pricing across genders,” added Senator Patterson.

When Senate Bill 711 is signed into law, DCBS will be tasked with issuing a report on their study of disparities in hormone replacement drug pricing. That report will be delivered to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2022.

The bill passed on a 17-11 vote and will now be considered by the Oregon House of Representatives.

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