

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed rules for the Drug Price Transparency Program. The Oregon Coalition for Affordable Prescriptions (OCAP), an advocacy group dedicated to promoting affordable medications, and OSPIRG, a public interest advocacy organization, are jointly submitting this letter to express our concerns regarding the proposed rules.

It is concerning to see the proposed shift towards making reporting requirements voluntary for manufacturers. This change, seemingly driven by ongoing litigation, undermines the very purpose of the DPT and threatens its ability to function effectively. The transition to voluntary reporting diminishes the program's capacity to gather essential information and execute its mandate to its full extent.

Further, the intent of the legislation was to combat rising pharmaceutical costs, which are a significant contributor to overall healthcare expenses. The program's reviews of prescription drugs, including the identification of products that inhibit affordability and access, are central to achieving this goal. By making reporting optional, we risk losing crucial data that could inform the program's decisions and recommendations, ultimately weakening consumer protections.

It is also worth noting that the DPT's authority to conduct affordability reviews should not be contingent upon voluntary disclosures from manufacturers. As outlined in Section 5 of SB 844, the Board retains the authority to conduct affordability reviews even in the absence of information from manufacturers. This underscores the legislature's intent that the DPT operate independently and assertively to protect consumers.

I urge the Rules Advisory Committee to closely consider the legislative intent behind the establishment of the DPT and the potential negative impact that voluntary reporting could have on the program's effectiveness. It is essential that the DPT is empowered with robust reporting requirements to ensure it can fulfill its mandate and deliver on its promise to the people of Oregon. We recommend revisiting the rules to align more closely with the original legislative intent and to resist changes that would erode the program's capacity to protect consumers from unfair drug pricing.

Thank you for considering these comments. We look forward to continued discussions to ensure the DPT remains a strong and effective tool in addressing prescription drug affordability in Oregon.