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OPCA Applauds Attorney General's Actions To Protect CHCs, Patients in Oregon
Rosenblum Joins Coalition of 29 Attorneys General Urging HHS To Hold Drug Manufacturers Accountable

Portland, OR – The Oregon Primary Care Association (OPCA) applauds Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum's efforts to defend prescription drug safety net protections.

[It was announced on Monday that Rosenblum joined a bipartisan coalition of 29 state attorneys general](#) urging the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to hold drug manufacturers accountable for unlawfully refusing to provide discounts through the federal government's 340B Drug Pricing Program to community health centers (CHCs), hospitals, and other providers that serve patient populations made vulnerable.

The 340B Program provides up-front discounts to safety net providers for medications that save lives and control chronic conditions—such as asthma, diabetes, and heart disease—and, for many CHCs, also known as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), the discounts are a lifeline used to provide comprehensive health care services to low-income, uninsured, and underinsured patients in the state.

In [a letter to HHS Secretary Alex Azar](#), the attorneys general argue that by withholding or threatening to withhold these critical discounts, drug manufacturers Eli Lilly & Company, AstraZeneca PLC, Sanofi SA, Novartis Pharmaceuticals, Merck & Co., United Therapeutics Corp., and others put low-income patients at risk of losing access to affordable medications while communities continue to battle the COVID-19 pandemic.

"OPCA is encouraged by Attorney General Rosenblum's actions to protect access to lifesaving medications for Oregon's 33 CHCs and their 466,000 patients," said Joan Watson-Patko, OPCA executive director. "The 340B Program stretches scarce resources and strengthens the country's CHCs at a time when we should prioritize access to health care, not cut it. Especially while Oregon's health centers are providing front-line testing, treatment, and services to thousands of COVID-19 patients during a global pandemic."

About Oregon's CHCs

Oregon's community health centers deliver integrated medical, dental, and behavioral health services at over 200 locations to the communities made vulnerable across the state. Over 466,000 Oregonians receive their care at a community health center, including one in four people on the Oregon Health Plan. Over 73% of patients live below the poverty line, and 94% live at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Over 75% of community health centers have clinic sites serving rural communities, 30% of Oregon's community health centers are federally recognized as Health Care for the Homeless locations, and 33% are designated as Migrant Health Centers. Find out more about [Oregon's CHCs here](#).

About OPCA

OPCA is a non-profit membership association of Oregon's 33 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), including one FQHC Look-Alike. The organization's mission is to lead the transformation of primary care to achieve health equity for all.

OPCA believes all people, in Oregon and beyond, should have the chance to lead their healthiest lives and have access to equitable health care. Oregon Primary Care Association supports a network of community health centers that deliver exceptional health care to people in urban, rural and frontier

communities who may otherwise not have access to services. By helping health centers apply innovative approaches to health care delivery and system challenges, OPCA is transforming primary care in Oregon and beyond. Follow us on Twitter [@OregonPCA](#) or on [Facebook](#)

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