



## Statement: Stakeholders Applaud ‘Pause’ at Oregon’s Prescription Drug Affordability Board; Urge PDABs in Maryland, Minnesota and Washington to Follow Suit

**September 30, 2024** – A diverse group of Oregon-based and national stakeholders, including patient groups, health organizations and community leaders, have come together to applaud the Oregon Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB) for its decision to halt drug reviews in 2024. This strategic move is a forward-looking approach aimed at recalibrating and refining processes to better address the complex issue of prescription affordability, particularly in underserved communities.

The Oregon PDAB has encountered several issues in its review process this year, including needing better data to determine drug net prices and defining affordability more effectively for patients and the state. Patient groups, health organizations and other stakeholders have had ongoing concerns about the potential impacts of policies implemented by PDABs, and many believe the review process has been opaque and hasn’t allowed for meaningful stakeholder engagement.

“We wholeheartedly support the PDAB’s decision to take a step back and reassess its methods,” said Caring Ambassadors’ Executive Director Lorren Sandt. “This pause will allow for needed patient and stakeholder engagement; we believe it’s crucial PDABs around the U.S. bring patient feedback into focus more than is currently happening.”

The decision to pause reviews is not just a victory for Oregon but a potential model for other states grappling with prescription drug affordability. By pausing to gather more accurate data and engage with diverse communities, the PDAB is setting a precedent for thoughtful, inclusive policymaking that can serve as a template for states such as

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Maryland, Minnesota and Washington, which are each currently implementing prescription drug affordability boards.

Sandt added, “Other states are taking note of Oregon’s leadership by prioritizing a deeper understanding of the comments and feedback. We urge policymakers across the country to consider similar measures to ensure their affordability initiatives are beneficial for all.”

State stakeholders are encouraged to submit comments directly to the

- [Maryland PDAB through this portal](#)
- [Minnesota PDAB through this portal](#)
- [Washington PDAB through this portal](#)

Additionally, to ensure patient perspectives are captured across the country, the EACH/PIC Coalition, a leader in elevating patient voices around the country, has launched a [new patient survey](#) to determine the many factors that can lead to affordability and access challenges for patients. The study's results will be shared with all Prescription Drug Affordability Boards (PDABs) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to better inform drug affordability reviews.

As Oregon takes this important step, stakeholders are committed to supporting the PDAB in its efforts to engage with communities, collect meaningful data, and develop policies that reflect the needs and realities of all Oregonians. This pause is being seen as a critical investment in the future of healthcare affordability and accessibility, setting the stage for more equitable and effective outcomes. Other states with prescription drug affordability boards, such as Maryland, Minnesota and Washington, should follow suit.

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