

The Daily Dose

Faces from the frontlines of Oregon's Health Care Crisis



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"I could hardly believe a program like this actually exists. I was very skeptical," said Donna Cohen of Portland, *"I'm saving \$40 a month on one drug. It's a huge difference."*

Donna Cohen of Portland is self-employed. She has health insurance, but it does not cover prescription drugs, dental or vision care. In the ten years that Donna has been purchasing insurance, she has seen her premiums more than double, from \$150 a month originally to \$380 a month now. "Health care is the second biggest expense I have, after my mortgage," explains Donna.

A month ago, Donna heard about the Oregon Prescription Drug Program (OPDP). She got the card in the mail and went to her pharmacy. "I had been getting a drug from Canada because it was a lot less expensive," says Donna. "The pricing for this drug was competitive under the OPDP."

Donna found one of her prescriptions, a generic, was a similar price using the OPDP card or purchasing in Canada. For the other prescription, a brand name, she did not find the savings as great. Overall, Donna was thrilled to use her new card and get her prescription at a local pharmacy.

Health care costs are a very large percent of Donna's budget. "My biggest concern financially is what if I get sick." She would like to see the legislature enact reforms to reduce costs of health care for all of us. One step toward that goal is to expand the Oregon Prescription Drug Program so the more underinsured Oregonians and employers can participate. **SB 362**, will be heard in the House Health Care Committee this afternoon. We urge your support for its passage.

Donna's Message to the Legislature:

In addition, to the millions of uninsured Americans are millions more "under-insured," like me who do not have comprehensive health coverage. We need help, too!

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