

# POST GOES ALL-IN

## with long battle for allergy relief

For much of his time in the state Legislature, Rep. Bill Post (R-Keizer) has waged a war for allergy relief.

After three attempts to make the allergy relief medication pseudoephedrine available to state residents without a prescription, victory may finally be in sight.

"I feel good about it's chances this time around," Post said. "The bill passed out of the House with a vote of 33-22 and the senators on the other side of the Legislature usually look at those votes as a scorecard when they are figuring out whether to support it."

House Bill (HB) would make the drug available to customers over the age of 18, with proper identification, and after recording some patient information. The medicine would still be kept behind the counter. However, Oregon residents wouldn't have to travel to another state for allergy relief in more than 15 years.

Post tried to get a similar bill passed in 2017, but the effort never

By ERIC A. HOWALD *Of the Keizertimes*



made it past the committee level. In 2019, another bill progressed to a Senate vote, but altered so much in the process that Post himself turned against it.

"It was what we call a 'gut-and-stuff,'" Post said. "Patients would still have had to get a prescription for the drug from a pharmacist, which would have meant a private consultation in a separate room of the pharmacy."

The drug's status as a controlled substance would have made the extra step necessary and would likely have led to additional charges for service, Post said. He testified against the passage of the bill when the floor vote arrived.

This time around, the bill that Post envisioned from the start appears to be moving ahead. In no small part because he got buy-in before the matter reached the House Committee on Health Care. Post enlisted three other chief sponsors and 31 additional regular sponsors.

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# Mask protest prompts walkout at city council

By ERIC A. HOWALD *Of the Keizertimes*

A Keizer resident protesting retightening COVID restrictions prompted a walkout in the chambers of the Keizer City Council Monday, May 3.

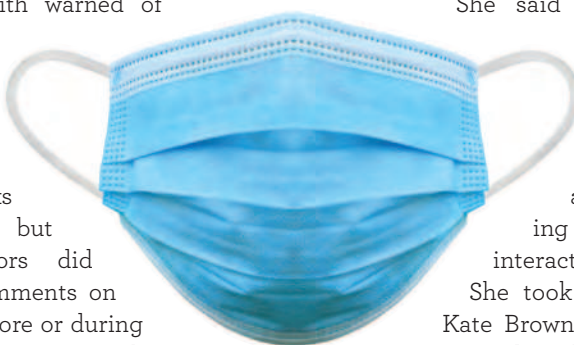
Alexis Smith warned of her intent to remove her mask inside the Keizer Civic Center, where masks are required, but city councilors did not make comments on her action before or during the incident. Some members of the audience at the council meeting when the woman made her intent known, several more followed after she removed her face mask.

It was left to City Recorder Tracy Davis to clean a microphone stand

before others took their turn to speak in public testimony.

"For the past year, I've worn a mask for the purpose of making the community feel safe. The reality is we need to be a little uncomfortable," said Smith.

She said her children were suffering as a result of mask mandates and retreating from social interactions as well. She took aim at Gov. Kate Brown and recently re-enacted guidelines to stop a recent surge on COVID-19 cases. "With the last closure the stove has been turned up. We need to look now how to escape the pot before we are too



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