
NORTHWEST STRATEGIES inc.

CHAIR GREENLICK AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

MY NAME IS LEN BERGSTEIN. I AM HERE TODAY REPRESENTING ZOOMCARE IN SUPPORT OF SB 8.

MANY OF YOU MAY KNOW ZOOMCARE AS THE INNOVATIVE OREGON COMPANY CREATING THE WORLD'S FIRST NEIGHBORHOOD CLINIC AND SMART-PHONE BASED HEALTHCARE DELIVERY SYSTEM.

AFTER MY BRIEF REMARKS I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE KIT SANDSTROM, A FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER, WHO DELIVERS TERRIFIC CARE AT OUR MULTNOMAH VILLAGE CLINIC.

AS YOU HAVE HEARD, SB8 WOULD BUILD ON IMPORTANT POLICY INITIATIVES THIS COMMITTEE AND YOUR LEGISLATIVE COLLEAGUES HAVE ENACTED REGARDING DISPENSING PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.

CURRENTLY, CERTIFIED NURSE PRACTITIONERS AND CERTIFIED NURSE SPECIALISTS ARE AUTHORIZED TO PRESCRIBE AND DISPENSE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS...HOWEVER, THEY CAN ONLY DISPENSE IN RURAL AREAS OR AREAS WITHOUT READILY AVAILABLE ACCESS TO PHARMACY SERVICES.

SB8 WOULD REMOVE THAT RESTRICTION AND ALLOW DISPENSING OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS THROUGHOUT OREGON.

ZOOMCARE URGES YOUR SUPPORT OF SB8 FOR SEVERAL GOOD REASONS:

SB8 BUILDS ON THE POLICY ENACTED LAST SESSION (HB 1565) AUTHORIZING PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS TO DISPENSE PRESCRIPTION MEDICINE...THEREBY CREATING MORE MODERN CLINICAL TEAMS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO QUALITY CARE

CREATES BETTER CONNECTIONS BETWEEN OUR REGULATORY BOARD OF MEDICINE, NURSING AND PHARMACY

INCREASES CONVENIENCE FOR PATIENTS, AND

IMPROVES PATIENT CARE BY STARTING THERAPEUTIC MEDICATION MORE QUICKLY AFTER CLINICAL DIAGNOSIS

AS YOU HAVE HEARD, PATIENT SAFETY IS ENSURED AND ENHANCED BY SB8..AND THERE IS A TRACK RECORD WHICH DEMONSTRATES THAT DISPENSING BY NURSE PRACTITIONERS HAS OCCURRED FOR YEARS IN OREGON WITHOUT COMPLAINT...

ZOOMCARE HAS DEVELOPED A CARE MODEL THAT DEPENDS UPON THE USE OF A CLINICAL TEAM OF HIGHLY QUALIFIED DOCTORS, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS AND NURSE PRACTITIONERS TO HELP INCREASE ACCESS TO CARE AND TO DRIVE DOWN THE COST OF CARE.

SB8 IS A MODEST BUT MEANINGFUL NEXT STEP IN MODERNIZING THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN OREGON.