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TESTIMONY OF KATHERINE SANDSTROM, ON SB 8
To The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE
May 6, 2013

Chair Greenlick and House Committee Members

My name is Katherine Sandstrom and I am a Family Nurse Practitioner. I received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Johns Hopkins University and a Masters in Nursing from the University of Pennsylvania. A critical part of my education and training was the study of pharmacology; learning about the benefits of medications and also about the adverse effects. I am a board certified Nurse Practitioner, which means that I passed a rigorous nationally standardized test that demanded proficiency in medication management.

I currently am a Family Nurse Practitioner at ZoomCare in Multnomah Village in Portland. What I have heard time and again from my patients is how they appreciate having accessible healthcare in their neighborhood. They are especially appreciative that we are open in the evenings and on weekends when other clinics and their neighborhood pharmacies are often closed. I regret when I have to inform the parent of a sick child that I am not able to dispense medication and I have to refer them to a 24-hour pharmacy 30 minutes away. I am frustrated when my patient in severe pain has to make another car trip to pick up an anti-inflammatory medication when I potentially could have dispensed it to her during her visit and then sent her home to rest. I worry when a patient decides to delay treatment because getting to a pharmacy is another obstacle in their access to healthcare.

The increased number of Nurse Practitioners providing primary care services in Oregon has already improved access to care. In the rural areas of Oregon, Nurse Practitioners have already been safely dispensing medication. The added authority of being able to dispense medication in urban areas will extend these benefits to all Oregonians. Thank you for your consideration of this bill.