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Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson  
District 25: Gresham, Troutdale, Fairview, Wood Village

House Committee on Health Care  
Chair Greenlick, Vice-Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice-Chair Thompson  
Representatives Weidner, Harker, Lively, Kennemer, Clem, and Conger  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 470-A – Support  
May 8, 2013

Chair Greenlick and members of the committee:

**Unintentional prescription drug-related death rates in Oregon have increased 240% from 2000 to 2011. However, these deaths could be easily prevented.** One way to prevent these unintentional overdoses is to raise awareness about the risk and keep physicians up to date on high-risk, high-dose prescriptions their patient may be taking.

**An important step in saving lives is utilizing the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.** The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program has been operational for the past 19 months. It provides an incredible tool for providers as they prescribe medications that are subject to possible abuse pose a high risk for overdose deaths. **The biggest obstacle in using PDMP to save lives is that not enough doctors choose to use it.** The changes to the PDMP in SB 470-A will allow for improved use of the program. It will lead to better information for providers so they can better understand prescribing trends, provide higher quality care, and protect the safety of their patients. The purpose of PDMP is not to voyeuristically monitor private medical information or catch addicts so we can put them in jail. **This bill is about patient safety, first and foremost.**

Prescription drug overdose deaths are an epidemic in this state. If people in Oregon were dying from an infectious disease at the rate that they are dying of prescription drug overdoses, we would be doing everything we could to inform physicians of how they can stop the spread and save lives. That is precisely what the PDMP and SB 470-A intends to do.

**I urge you to support SB 470-A.**