



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Board of Pharmacy

800 NE Oregon St, Suite 150

Portland, OR 97232

Phone: 971/ 673-0001

Fax: 971/ 673-0002

Email: pharmacy.board@state.or.us

Web: www.pharmacy.state.or.us

Testimony on SB 148

2-25-15

Chair Monnes-Anderson and committee members

My name is Marcus Watt and I am the Executive Director of the Board of Pharmacy.

Before I begin I would like to state that it is my understanding that the bill as written has some flaws, and that two amendments to SB 148 have been prepared, one would add one pharmacist and one pharmacy technician to the Board of Pharmacy and the other would add two technicians.

The Board of Pharmacy had a thorough discussion about SB148 during its recent Board meeting. They support the addition of one pharmacy technician to the Board, which then provides technicians an important position on their regulatory board. The Board supports the addition of one technician, but objects to the addition of two.

The mission of the Board of Pharmacy is to protect the public through the regulation of the practice of pharmacy as well as all commerce of prescription and non-prescription drugs entering or leaving our state. The Board also enforces many federal regulations set by the Food and Drug Administration and the Drug Enforcement Agency.

The current makeup of the Board is 5 professional members who are pharmacists from different practice settings and two public members. The professional members' role is to provide expertise, knowledge, and guidance of the practice of pharmacy and the public member's role is to ensure that the Board and its professional members are acting in the best interests of the public and not the profession itself. The current makeup of the Board provides an ideal balance of professional knowledge along with the safeguards of having non-professional involvement and oversight. Adding two technicians to the Board would create an imbalance that might not allow for decisions to be made with the full understanding of professional obligations and standards.

Pharmacy technicians perform an important role by assisting the pharmacist in non-judgmental tasks such as counting medications, placing labels on medication vials and entering data into a computer. They are not allowed to work independently and are prohibited from performing any activity that requires the exercise of judgment and could impact patient care. They have limited

knowledge of the practice of pharmacy or the state and federal statutes and regulations that guide the profession.

The Board of Pharmacy spends a minimal amount of time on technician rules, and disciplinary cases related to technicians are typically simple and non-complex. The addition of two technicians to the Board would be out of proportion to the amount of time dedicated to the regulation of technicians.

To conclude, the Board of Pharmacy supports the addition of one technician and one pharmacist to create a nine member board, but cannot support the addition of two technicians.

Thank you for your time and consideration.