

March 11, 2015

**Written Testimony of AOC Legal Counsel Rob Bovett
before the Senate Health Care Committee in favor of
Senate Bill 626 and the Dash-1 Amendments**

Chair Monnes Anderson, Vice-Chair Kruse, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify briefly in support of Senate Bill 626 and the Dash-1 amendments.

SB 626 comes to you as part of continuing efforts by your community public health and addiction prevention professionals to improve the functionality and usefulness of the Oregon Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), an important tool to fully inform prescribers, and help prevent dangerous drug interactions and prescription drug abuse.

Senate Bill 626 would:

- 1. Provide an automated notification system to alert prescribers and pharmacists of potentially dangerous drug interactions or multiple practitioners prescribing drugs to a patient.
- 2. Provide better access to the PDMP for community health programs and medical examiners.
- 3. Provide better access for researchers analyzing the efficacy of the Oregon PDMP, so long as any reports by those researchers contain only deidentified data.
- 4. *Require prescribers to check with the PDMP prior to issuing a prescription for certain drugs (but this would be removed from the bill by the Dash-1 amendments).*

The Dash-1 amendments would:

- 1. Shorten the time for transferring data from pharmacies to the PDMP from one week to 72 hours. It is my understanding that this is the consensus resolution of the issue raised by Senate Bill 71, and we're happy to include that resolution within SB 626.
- 2. Put further sideboards on access for researchers analyzing PDMP data (*see number 3 above*).
- 3. *Remove the bill's mandate that prescribers check with the PDMP prior to issuing a prescription for certain drugs (see number 4 above).* It is with reluctance that we have agreed to remove this mandate from the bill. However, we acknowledge that the prescriber associations are opposed to that mandate, and pushing that issue forward at this time is not worth the risk to the other important provisions contained in SB 626.

Please support SB 626 and pass it out of Committee with a "do pass" recommendation.