

Before the House Committee on Health Care

Support for House Bill 2028 – Clinical Pharmacy

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Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today in support of HB 2028. Kaiser Permanente Northwest provides integrated health care, including pharmacy services, for more than 500,000 members in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

HB 2028 would allow a clinical pharmacy agreement to be reached between a pharmacist and health care organization or physician, allowing pharmacists to providing clinical pharmacy services, such as medication therapy, within the scope of the agreement. Effective monitoring of drug efficacy, side effects, and adherence to therapy improves quality of care and can help control cost. Pharmacists can provide safe and effective monitoring of prescription drugs, providing appropriate refills and continuation of therapy, while tracking compliance and keeping the prescribing clinician updated as to the current status of the medication therapy.

Oregon law currently allows “Collaborative Drug Therapy Management,” which enables a physician and a pharmacist to participate in the management of drug therapy pursuant to a written agreement for an individual patient. HB 2028 would streamline the process by allowing a pharmacist to provide clinical pharmacy services to all patients covered by the clinical pharmacy agreement, within the parameters of that agreement, rather than having to execute a new agreement for each patient. Under HB 2028, a pharmacist could dispense drugs and manage the monthly monitoring of the patient, making appropriate adjustments to drug therapy, and allowing the pharmacist and prescribing clinician to work together through the established protocol.

This bill does not change who can diagnose a patient. Rather, the bill would allow a pharmacist to participate in a treatment protocol once a diagnosis has been established. For example, once a diagnosis of hypertension is established by a clinician, the pharmacist, working with the individual patient, could monitor and adjust the therapy to provide the best results for the patient.

HB 2028 will save patients unnecessary trips to see providers, allow more timely responses to monitoring, and allow more coordination of care between health professionals. Additionally, HB 2028 will align Oregon law with practices already allowed and proven successful in Washington. As an integrated delivery system that spans both sides of the Columbia River, HB 2028 will make our practices more efficient and allow our care teams to work under the same protocols in both states.

Thank you for hearing this important legislation. Kaiser Permanente supports HB 2028 and respectfully requests the Committee’s support in moving it forward.