

Dear Senators,

My name is Victor Lin, and I am a physician practicing in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation in Eugene, Oregon. I'm writing today in support of SB661, which I believe you vote on April, 1, 2015.

The state of pain management in this state is a disaster. In Eugene, none of the Pain Management specialists will accept Oregon Health Plan. Why? Because OHP will not allow them to use any other narcotic pain killers than oxycodone (aka Percocet), hydrocodone (Vicodin), methadone, or Tramadol. These are the cheapest narcotics from a prescription medication standpoint, but they are also the most addictive and/or the most dangerous, with high street desirability. OHP will not cover newer, more expensive medications that are long-acting, with built-in abuse deterrents. This goes against any pain management principles specialists receive during their training.

I am not a Pain Management physician, but I am the closest thing to it that many family physicians can find, and as a result I have been inundated with referrals for chronic pain management. I keep my doors open to OHP because I feel I have a duty to see patients with strokes, spinal cord injuries, head injuries, muscular dystrophies, etcetera, who inevitably end up on OHP. But I am so flooded now with OHP chronic pain (which I no longer take on as long-term patients as a result of the aforementioned limitations) that it is jeopardizing my ability to effectively treat patients who have needs more consistent with my area of specialty.

Please consider endorsing SB 661, and force all insurance carriers to allow us to do our jobs in the way we were trained to do.

Best Regards,

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