



Integrative pain management for optimal patient care

March 31, 2015

Senate Committee on Health Care
Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair
Oregon Senate
Salem, Oregon

RE: SB 661

Dear Senator Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the American Academy of Pain Management in support of SB 661 which requires health benefit plans that provide coverage of opioid analgesic drugs to also provide coverage of abuse-deterrent opioid analgesic drugs. The bill also prohibits a health benefit plan from imposing cost-sharing or prior authorization requirements on the coverage of abuse-deterrent opioid analgesics that are any less favorable than those used for opioid analgesics without abuse-deterrent properties. Further, the bill prohibits an insurer from increasing the lowest cost-sharing level imposed on drugs covered by the plan in order to comply with this section. And lastly, the bill prohibits insurers from creating financial disincentives for prescribers and dispensers to prescribe or dispense abuse-deterrent opioid analgesic drugs. **We believe that passage of this bill is a vital component of a comprehensive approach to addressing prescription drug abuse.**

We applaud you for recognizing the importance of abuse-deterrent formulations (ADFs) of opioid analgesic medication. Requiring coverage parity between ADFs and non-abuse-deterrent opioids, and thereby ensuring patient access to ADFs, is critical if we are to see the full benefits of such technologies. ADF opioid analgesics can help reduce the number of opioid overdose deaths, but they will not be effective if no one uses them because they can't afford them. Passage of SB 661 will help to ensure that those who would benefit from ADFs will receive them and at a price they can afford.

The Academy views this bill as a vital component of a comprehensive approach to addressing prescription drug abuse, and we support SB 661. I am happy to discuss this issue with you if necessary. Please feel free to contact me by email at btwillman@aapainmanage.org, or by telephone at 209-533-9750, ext. 110.

About the Academy: The American Academy of Pain Management is the premier organization for all clinicians who care for people with pain. It is the largest pain management organization in the nation and the only one that embraces, as part of its mission statement, an integrative model of care, which: is patient-centered; considers the whole person; encourages healthful lifestyle changes as part of the first line of treatment to restore wellness; is evidence-based; brings together all appropriate therapeutic approaches to reduce pain and achieve optimal health and healing; and, encourages a team approach.

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Sincerely yours,

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