

**Providence Health & Services**  
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February 3, 2016

The Honorable Mitch Greenlick  
Chair, House Health Care Committee  
State Capitol  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: House Bill 4124, Reducing opioid use

Dear Representative Greenlick and members of the committee:

On behalf of Providence Health & Services, thank you for the opportunity to express our support of House Bill 4124 and increased attention to the epidemic of opioid abuse. As Oregon's largest provider of mental health services, Providence is committed to better serving patients and families struggling to overcome substance abuse and addiction.

Providence is working to integrate mental health and substance abuse services across the continuum of care, ensuring that regardless of where a patient is served, our providers are able to respond. Beyond our work internally, we are also participating in the Healthy Columbia Willamette Collaborative which has developed consensus safe opioid prescribing standards, and is working to develop two additional prescribing standards designed for patients with chronic pain.

House Bill 4124 directly supports the current efforts underway by health care systems and the broader community in two important ways:

- Increases the information available to providers – Integrating the prescription drug monitoring program with existing health information systems and streamlining access, provides frontline caregivers with information necessary to make informed decisions at the point-of-care.
- Resources available to family members – Increasing access to the life-saving drug Naloxone by allowing pharmacists to prescribe and dispense, gives non-medical caregivers an effective tool in helping to reduce overdose deaths in Oregon.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment; we hope you'll join us in support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Underriner".

Dave Underriner  
Chief Executive Officer  
Providence Health & Services