



Health Share of Oregon

February 3, 2016

Health Share of Oregon Comments on HB 4124

Members of the House Committee on Health Care:

Health Share of Oregon is the state's largest Medicaid coordinated care organization (CCO), serving more than 235,000 Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties. Our organization was founded and continues to be governed by eleven familiar health care organizations serving OHP members. Reduction of misuse, abuse, and deaths related to unintentional overdose of opioids is a statewide priority for CCOs and the health care community as a whole. We are writing to express our support for HB 4124, which would help achieve those goals.

Prescription opioid misuse has reached epidemic proportions in Oregon- we currently rank second in the nation for non-medical use of prescription pain relievers. Approximately 20% of Health Share members were prescribed an opioid in 2014. Opioid abuse is such a problem in our community, our partner organizations convened to develop and adopt new prescribing guidelines for opioids and make a public commitment to reduce unnecessary opioid prescriptions. This bill takes further steps to address the problem.

Specifically, this bill would 1) streamline the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) database for front line health care providers through integrated system access and 2) reduce the likelihood of an overdose death from an opioid through increased access to naloxone for at-risk patients.

Oregon's PDMP, implemented in 2011, is one tool that has been utilized by providers and pharmacists to provide optimal care in managing a patient's prescriptions; however, it is still utilized at less than optimal rates due to log in and time-management barriers. HB 4124 removes these barriers by integrating PDMP data into the existing health technology system used by the provider. The provider would no longer be required to access two separate systems under two separate logins. The privacy and security of any information accessed from the PDMP through the integrated system remains protected as only authorized users of the PDMP will be able to view the integrated PDMP data.

Naloxone is a drug used in the event of life-threatening overdose. An individual's family/loved one can currently obtain Naloxone after completing a training on the administration of Naloxone with a corresponding certificate signed by a physician, which serves as a prescription for Naloxone. HB 4124 would allow pharmacists to prescribe and dispense unit-of-use packages of Naloxone to an individual who has completed the training, without a physician's signature. This effectively removes barriers for family/loved ones who may not have access to a physician to get this certificate signed.

For these reasons, we request your support for this measure.

Respectfully submitted by Janet L. Meyer, Chief Executive Officer

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