

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE
SB 423
TESTIMONY IN FAVOR PRESENTED BY**

**LARRY CARTIER, RPh
ON BEHALF OF ZOOM+CARE**

February 23, 2017

Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Health Committee

My name is Larry Cartier, an Oregon pharmacist and I am here representing ZOOM+Care to speak in support of SB 423.

Under the current statute, dispensing privileges of certain controlled medications are granted to Physician's Assistants based on geographic location or population served, not based on a provider's license, practice setting or competence. SB 423 eliminates this geographic difference in practice standards.

As a pharmacist at ZOOM+Care my focus is to insure that therapeutic outcomes are improved with the appropriate use of medications. At ZOOM+Care we have many of the required medications available for dispensing during the patient's visit to our clinics. At ZOOM+Care we recognize that national statistics show that up to one third of all prescriptions written by a health care provider are never filled by the patient due to cost, patient confusion about the treatment, the inconvenience of having the prescription filled or other patient concerns. At ZOOM+Care we are attempting to solve this problem by offering some of the medications, including a select number of controlled medications, at the time patient care is being delivered.

Pharmacy staff at ZOOM+Care are also responsible to insure that medication safety, security, storage conditions and the general dispensing process meet both regulatory and ZOOM+Care standards.

To insure patient safety, medications at ZOOM+Care are stored at the required temperature, are safe and secure and that medication inventory is tightly controlled. Medications are stored in our clinics in locking med cabinets and both dispensing and prescribing practices are closely monitored. If granted permission to dispense a limited number of controlled substances in our clinics, all such controlled substance dispensing will be reported to the state's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program as required.

Our goal is not to turn our clinics into pharmacies, but based on patient feedback, complete care, including having some of the required medications readily available at time of their visit, has been a huge point of patient satisfaction with ZOOM+Care model. With the goal of improving patient care, patient convenience and patient satisfaction, we are simply requesting that our urban based PAs be allowed to have the same practice and dispensing standards as PAs in other parts of Oregon.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this information.