



February 23, 2017

To: Members of the Senate Health Care Committee

From: Erin Cramer, Legislative Chair for Oregon Society of Physician Assistants

Re: SB 423

OSPA is a member organization representing physician assistants across the state of Oregon. The Oregon Society of Physician Assistants seeks to promote quality, cost effective, and accessible health care; to support the professional and personal development of Physician Assistants; and to advance the PA profession as well as the PA/MD team approach to health care.

As advocates for our patients, the Oregon Society of Physician Assistants (OSPA) supports SB 423 as a logical step to improved patient care and service in Oregon.

Allowing the dispensing of acutely necessary medications by (already well-qualified) Physician Assistants in clinics throughout the state will improve the health of patients who might otherwise suffer due to poor pharmacy access, such as in towns without a pharmacy, or when needed after regular business hours.

The practice that will be permitted by SB 423 is no different than that currently permitted from Emergency Departments, and as such, should lead to a reduced utilization of EDs for problems that can easily be managed in outpatient clinic settings. SB 423 should reduce health care costs and improve access to care.

SB 423 has the potential to positively impact many rural Oregonians, removing an additional barrier to accessing care that many Oregon patients encounter. There is little potential downside, given the regulatory mechanisms in place for dispensing, and given the quality care that physician assistants are proven to deliver.

Please support SB 423 as a logical improvement to the provision of patient care in Oregon.