



MEMORANDUM

To: Rep. Mitch Greenlick, Chair, House Committee on Health Care
Rep. Rob Nosse, Vice-Chair, House Committee on Health Care
Rep. Cedric Hayden, House Committee on Health Care
Members of the House Committee on Health Care

From: Courtni Dresser, OMA Government Relations

Date: March 10, 2017

Re: Support for HB 2518-1

Oregon's PDMP data shows that prescribed opioid use is pervasive among Oregonians – in 2014, the total number of opioids prescribed was enough for nearly every person in the state to have a bottle. An average of 3 Oregonians die every week from prescription opioid abuse and many more develop opioid use disorder.¹ Reducing the misuse, abuse and unintentional overdoses due to opioids remains one of the state's top priorities and one where physicians and prescribers have a key role to play.

Front line doctors in hospital emergency departments or primary care offices who are trying to provide safe and effective pain treatment for patients need quick, complete, and accurate information about what prescriptions their patients are already getting. The information exists. Oregon's Prescription Database Monitoring Program (PDMP) has become a valuable tool to help health care providers provide patients better care in managing their prescriptions. But there is more that can be done to optimize the use of the PDMP.

HB 2518 -1 optimizes the PDMP by streamlining registration with board licensure, grant medical directors access for quality assurance, encourages interoperability between states and adds naloxone to monitored prescriptions.

We urge your support of HB 2518 -1 as an optimal streamlined tool that health care providers utilize to obtain accurate and timely data on a patient's prescription use so that they may actively participate in combatting the opioid epidemic while providing appropriate patient care.

The Oregon Medical Association serves and supports over 8,200 physicians, physician assistants and student members in their efforts to improve the health of all Oregonians. Additional information can be found at www.theOMA.org.

¹ Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division <
<https://public.health.oregon.gov/PreventionWellness/SubstanceUse/Opioids/Pages/index.aspx> > Accessed March 1,2017.