

March 2017

RE: SB-50

Dear Senate Committee on Health Care:

I am writing in support of SB-50 from my perspective as a pain psychologist for 15 years, as Chair of the Oregon Pain Management Commission and from my active involvement in multiple committees to improve pain care across Oregon. I currently work at the OHSU Comprehensive Pain Center.

Chronic pain affects more Americans than diabetes, heart disease, and cancer combined and costs the nation up to \$635 billion each year in medical treatment and lost productivity (IOM: Relieving Pain in America, 2011). According to the CDC, opioids killed more than 33,000 people in 2015 (nearly half of all opioid overdose deaths involve a prescription opioid). A lack of understanding of the biopsychosocial model of pain has led to a focus on interventional and medication pain treatment.

Pain is very complex and our understanding of pain has changed over the years. The Oregon Pain Management Commission is in the process of updating the 1 hour educational module to make it more dynamic and interactive so that all providers around the state can gain a shared understanding about pain and support biopsychosocially informed multidisciplinary care. Towards this goal, we feel that requiring more regular review of the continuously updated module by all providers who have the potential to work with patients with pain will allow us all to speak the same language and will be essential in improving the care of patients with pain across Oregon.

Thank you for making Oregon a leader in pain management.

Catrina Buist, Psy.D.  
Pain psychologist