

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

**LARRY CARTIER, RPh  
ON BEHALF OF ZOOM+CARE  
May 1, 2017**

Chair Greenlick and Members of the Health Care 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 their geographic location or population served, and are not based on a Physician Assistant's license or competence. SB 423 simply eliminates this geographic difference in practice standards and would allow a Physician's Assistant to perform the same duties, regardless of where they practice in Oregon.

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. As a pharmacist I recognize that national statistics show that up to one third of all prescriptions written by health care providers 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 very 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 by ZOOM+Care will be reported to the state's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.

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 key to patient satisfaction with the 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.