

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

**ALBERT DIPIERO, MD, MPH  
ON BEHALF OF ZOOM+CARE**

**May 11, 2017**

**Chair Greenlick and Members of the Health Committee**

I am Albert DiPiero, MD, the Co-Founder and the Chief Medical Officer of ZOOM+Care. I am here to speak in support of SB 423 and explain how allowing physician assistants to dispense certain Category III and IV controlled substances fits into sound and appropriate medical practice.

ZOOM+Care is an integrated delivery system with 25 clinics in Oregon delivering the full spectrum of care including urgent care, primary care and specialty care staffed by physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants.

As Len Bergstein explained, we support this modest but important change in the statutes to enable physician assistants to dispense certain Category III and IV controlled substances.

ZOOM+Care's model is built on the concept of On-Demand health care in neighborhoods. We deliver care through clinics open every day of the year with extended hours until 2 AM. We pioneered the extensive deployment of physician assistants and nurse practitioners as the core providers of an easy-to-access, high quality frontline care system. Today we have almost forty (40) physician assistants on staff.

A core principle of this model is ensuring that patients get their acute medicines at the time of the visit. The changes proposed in SB 423 would enable ZOOM+Care physician assistants to dispense tramadol for pain and pseudoephedrine for nasal and sinus congestion. These are basic medications for the conditions addressed in urgent care. We believe these medicines are safe when appropriately dispensed in this manner. Enabling physician assistants to dispense these medications would ensure:

- Greater convenience for patients
- Decreased time to treatment
- Improved safety and quality
- Ensure consistency of care throughout Oregon

ZOOM+Care has worked closely with the Oregon Medical Board to ensure a structure of safety and oversight for physician assistants.

ZOOM+Care ensures quality and safety of care delivered by physician assistants through a robust process that we believe is now the best in class practice and includes:

1. Thorough clinical testing during the recruiting, interview and on-boarding process
2. Full-time, dedicated clinical support via a medical doctor (MD) always available and assigned exclusively to answer clinical questions from our mid-level providers
3. ZoomUniversity - our monthly training and education seminar
4. Monthly one-one-one meetings of each physician assistant with an assigned supervising physician who conducts a structured review and discussion of cases, and mentors and teaches clinical medicine.
5. Detailed, evidence-based clinical protocols for common conditions
6. A Vigorous peer review quality process

ZOOM+Care urgent care practices do not dispense or prescribe opioids or benzodiazepines. This has been a philosophy and part of our internal protocols since our founding. As a practical matter SB 423 would only change ZOOM+Care's ability to dispense the basic medications of care - tramadol for pain and pseudoephedrine - in limited quantities. That is why I strongly urge support for this modest but important change in the statutes.

Thank you,

Albert DiPiero, MD MPH  
Co-founder, Chief Medical Officer