
February 2, 2018

Governor Kate Brown
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Governor Kate Brown,

On behalf of McKesson, I want to congratulate you on your swift action to addressing the opioid epidemic through the Opioid Epidemic Task Force and ultimately HB 4143. This comprehensive legislation is an important step toward addressing opioid addiction in Oregon, and we strongly support many of the provisions.

About McKesson

For 184 years, McKesson has led the industry in the delivery of medicines and healthcare products. McKesson is the nation's largest distributor of pharmaceuticals as well as the leading supplier of biotechnology and specialty pharmaceutical products and services for providers and patients. In Oregon, McKesson has a large distribution center in Wilsonville and, in total, employs over 296 people throughout the state.

Our country's opioid abuse epidemic is affecting communities across America at increasingly alarming rates. The opioid epidemic is a complicated, multi-faceted public health crisis that cannot be solved by any one stakeholder. We believe that it needs to be addressed through a comprehensive approach, such as contemplated in the Opioid Epidemic Task Force, that includes the doctors, patients, pharmacists, insurance companies, distributors, manufacturers, law enforcement, and regulators.

McKesson's White Paper on Combating the Opioid Epidemic

As the epidemic worsened in recent years, we wanted to help the healthcare system at large look at holistic ways to combat the problem. That's why two years ago, we created an internal task force of experts, including clinicians and public policy experts. In 2017, the group released its policy paper, "Combating the Opioid Abuse Epidemic: A Shared Responsibility that Requires Innovative Solutions," which includes six major areas of policy recommendations that we believe will help curb the opioid epidemic. We believe that the implementation of these policy and business solutions could significantly slow the abuse and diversion of opioids, to the benefit of patients and their families.

The policy paper details McKesson's recommendations to improve prescribing and dispensing practices towards our country's shared goal: to combat and ultimately end the opioid abuse and misuse epidemic. It also highlights McKesson's efforts to promote a secure supply chain and educate and equip our customers, prescribers and pharmacists. We sincerely appreciated the opportunity last summer to brief your Opioid Policy Advisor, Jeffrey Rhoades on our white paper and our recommendations to combatting this epidemic.

Additionally, we support and encourage you to consider the following policy proposals as you continue to tackle this epidemic:

McKesson supports the provisions in HB 4143 to study the barriers to medication-assisted treatment (MAT). We believe that allowing for pharmacists to provide and be reimbursed for MAT and other clinical services would increase access for patients suffering from opioid addiction. We also recommend that Oregon consider testing pharmacist-led opioid care management models that harness the expertise of pharmacists to identify at-risk patients, provide appropriate clinical interventions, patient and caregiver education, and coordination of care with prescribers.

McKesson encourages Oregon and other states to enact legislation to permit pharmacists to leverage data analytics to identify patients at-risk for opioid overuse, abuse, addiction or misuse. We have partnered with the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP), a non-profit organization that sets standards for pharmacy claims to advocate for a national patient safety system. Our Rx Safety-Alert System (previously known as Patient Safety Network) would ultimately be a nationwide clinical alert system and could be the critical infrastructure or backbone of an effective opioid care management program.

By providing proactive clinical alerts, in real-time, in workflow, and across state lines, the patient safety system would be an important additional tool working in conjunction with Oregon's PDMP.

We'd like to thank you for your continued commitment to helping Oregonians across the state who struggle with opioid addiction. We'd also like to thank Jeffrey Rhoades for his work facilitating this task force and cultivating HB 4143. We hope to work with him throughout the interim and in the future.

McKesson stands ready to work with you and all stakeholders who share our dedication to acting with urgency to address this epidemic and working together to end this national crisis. We would welcome the opportunity to further share our perspectives and experiences with you and your administration as you continue to work to prevent and treat opioid addiction in Oregon.

Sincerely,



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Director, State Government Affairs
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