

February 5, 2018

Oregon State Legislature  
House Committee on Health Care  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem Oregon 97301

**Re: House Bill 4143 – Opioid Pilot Project & PDMP Registry**

Chair Mitch Greenlick and Members of the House Health Care Committee:

The Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (OAHHS) appreciates the opportunity to share with the committee our support of House Bill 4143. OAHHS, representing Oregon's 62 acute care hospitals, supports the intent of HB 4143 to establish a pilot project to determine the efficacy of creating a direct link between the emergency department and appropriate evidence-based treatment for patients who suffer from opioid and opiate overdose. OAHHS and hospitals support requiring all practitioners to register with the PDMP; and to study and report on existing barriers to effective treatment for and recovery from substance use disorders, including addictions to opioids and opiates.

Oregon's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) is a tool to help healthcare providers and pharmacists provide patients better care in managing their prescriptions. Hospitals look to join the 25 other states, including Washington and Idaho, that mandate prescribers and dispensers enroll in their state's PDMP.

While OAHHS supports determining the efficacy of creating a direct link between the emergency department and appropriate evidence-based treatment for patients who suffer from opioid and opiate overdose, OAHHS has concerns with limiting the pilot program to only four counties. A pilot program should involve all interested parties and to ensure success. To date OAHHS is not aware of any outreach to hospitals prior to this legislation and selection of counties. OAHHS is in a position to identify interested hospitals and share those with OHA. OAHHS has suggested amendment language for OHA to work with interested hospitals to implement the pilot project in as many as four counties or as funding allows. Oregon hospitals need to be partners in the development and implementation of emergency department interventions to ensure success.

With HB 4143, hospitals support these important steps to reduce unnecessary opioid use in Oregon. We urge your support of this legislation as a first step to combatting the opioid epidemic.

Respectfully,

Andi Easton  
Associate Vice President of Government Affairs and Advocacy  
Oregon Association of Hospital and Health Systems