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Oregon Chapter, American College of Emergency Physicians (O.C.E.P)

Statement for the Record

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HB 2257 Opioid Policy

The Oregon Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (OR-ACEP) is a medical society that has represented physicians specializing in emergency medicine since 1971 and its members share a commitment to improve emergency healthcare for all Oregonians.

OR-ACEP supports HB 2257, which comes from the Governor's Opioid Epidemic Task Force, which was convened to develop strategies to address the epidemic. This bill declares legislative intent to consider substance use disorder as a chronic illness.

In the U.S. and in Oregon, we're facing a prescription opioid abuse epidemic and emergency physicians see first-hand the toll these drugs take on individuals, families and communities. As a result, the chapter was one of the first organizations to address the opioid crisis in Oregon, spearheading the development of consistent opioid prescribing guidelines for emergency physicians across the state nearly ten years ago. The chapter also served on OHA workgroups in 2016 and 2018 to develop guidelines for chronic and acute care prescribing that were informed, in part, by OR-ACEP prescribing guidelines.

OR-ACEP supports evidence-based, coordinated pain treatment guidelines that promote adequate pain control, health care access and allowance for incorporation of physician judgment. OR-ACEP, in coordination with ACEP, the Washington chapter of ACEP and national partners such as the AMA, CDC, FDA and others, has been educating its members and the public on safe prescribing guidelines for a number of years and the efforts have already shown great success. Prescriptions written from emergency departments account for less than 4.7% of opioids prescribed. According to a 2015 American Journal of Preventative Medicine (AJPM)

study, the largest percentage drop in opioid-prescribing rates between 2007-2012 occurred in emergency medicine (-8.9 percent).

The chapter has also been active partners in supporting and implementing the Emergency Department Information Exchange, supporting legislation to improve the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program and naloxone prescriptions, serving on opioid task forces at the state and national level and prioritizing appropriate patient care. We appreciate the commitment of Governor Brown, legislators and other partners to address the opioid epidemic. OR-ACEP is pleased to be a resource and to advocate for improved and appropriate care for patients.