

Dear Chair Monnes Anderson, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dan Slowey, and I am a lawyer and a second-year Family Medicine resident at Oregon Health & Science University. The following is my personal opinion only, and is in no way intended to represent the position of any other party or entity, including my employer.

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed legislation mandating that prescription labels be written in a patient's preferred language. In less than two years working as a medical resident, I have already had several patients who have been taking their medications incorrectly or not at all due to language-related confusion about labeling. One patient was taking four times the prescribed dosage of her blood pressure medication due to trouble reading the English-language labeling. If she hadn't come to clinic for associated symptomatic hypotension, a potentially very dangerous condition, this error might not have been caught in time to prevent serious harm or death.

This problem, of course, does not just exist in my clinic or my hospital system. How many patients are there throughout Oregon, right now, taking too much of potentially dangerous medications or not enough of potentially life-saving ones? And then how many large-scale problems like this one have such straightforward and low-cost fixes? This legislation would make substantial improvement to the quality and the kindness of the health care we provide in this state, and that's why I support it.

I urge the Committee to approve this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Dan Slowey, MD JD