

Basil Pittenger, M.D., LLC

Physician
Board Certified in Internal Medicine

Member of
NORTH BEND MEDICAL CENTER, INC.
1900 Woodland Drive, Coos Bay, Oregon 97420
(541) 267-5151

Basil Pittenger, MD.
Internal Medicine Department
North Bend Medical Center and Bay Area Hospital
Coos Bay, OR 97420 541-267-
5151

January, 30 2019

Representative Greenlick
Healthcare committee members
900 Courth St NE
H-493
Salem, Oregon 97301
503-297-4216

RE: Oregon House Bill 2698 and Senate Bill 136. *Bill Summary: removes 10 day supply limitation on prescriptions for certain controlled substances issued by Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists.*

RE: Oregon House Bill 2188 and Senate Bill 128. *Bill Summary: directs Board of Medical Imaging to issue a permit to supervise fluoroscopy to qualified Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, authorizes Board of Medical Imaging, Oregon State Board of Nursing and Oregon Health Authority to adopt rules.*

Dear Chair Greenlick and vital members of the Healthcare Committee,

As an internal medicine physician at North Bend Medical Center and Bay Area Hospital I write you today in support of the above bills that seek to help mitigate the opioid crisis facing our patients statewide. As primary care providers, our practices are already working overtime to fill the needs of our patients, many of whom must wait 3-6 months to find a provider. The opioid crisis and patients facing chronic pain conditions and their primary care providers struggle to find pain management providers to help wean off of the reliance on dangerous opioid medications. Patients statewide must travel hundreds of miles and wait many months for appointments to see an ever decreasing number of providers specializing in opioid deprescribing and chronic pain management. We need more highly qualified providers such as

Basil Pittenger, M.D., LLC

Physician
Board Certified in Internal Medicine

Member of
NORTH BEND MEDICAL CENTER, INC.
1900 Woodland Drive, Coos Bay, Oregon 97420
(541) 267-5151

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA's) to help safely care for these patients. Our CRNA colleagues are already entrusted to independently prescribe the most dangerous medications in the operative and peri-operative setting, and have extensive training in multimodal pain management therapies. Removing the 10-day restriction will afford our patients more access to safe quality care.

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses with advanced training in interventional pain management have been safely employing fluoroscopic imaging modalities to provide pain relief to chronic pain patients statewide and across the country. Many of my patients that I care for on a regular basis have been able to reduce and eliminate the reliance on opioid medications for pain relief with the help of interventional modalities. The above bill to permit qualified advanced Practice Registered Nurses to supervise fluoroscopy will provide better access to cost effective care for these patients as well.

I support the above bills to 1) remove 10 day supply limitation on prescriptions for certain controlled substances by Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists; and 2) authorize the Board of Medical Imaging to issue a permit to supervise fluoroscopy to qualified APRNs.

Kind regards,



Basil Pittenger, MD FACP
Current member and past President of the Medical Staff at Bay Area Hospital
Member of North Bend Medical Center