



February 18, 2021

The Honorable Chair Prusak  
House Committee on Health Care  
Oregon Legislative Assembly

RE: HB 2074, Oregon PDMP Fee Increase

Madam Chair:

I am submitting written testimony in support of HB 2074 that would increase the fees paid to fund the Oregon Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), raising the fees from \$25 to \$35. I have been involved with the Oregon PDMP since its formation and strongly believe that it has brought great value to the residents of this state through improved prescribing, foundational research and a noticeable reduction in the prescribing of opioids.

It has been ten years since the PDMP was formed and, as with everything, costs go up. It is time to increase the funding for the PDMP to, if nothing else, keep up with the increased costs that occur over time.

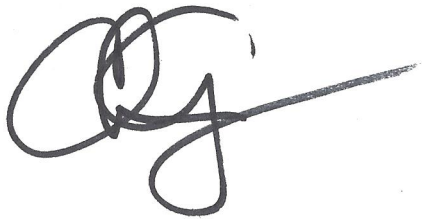
The PDMP has vastly expanded its services over the past decade. From groundbreaking research, public health improvements and enhanced functionality the PDMP has more than shown its worth to this state, prescribers and Oregonians. As an example, the PDMP is now accessible through Oregon's health information exchanges (HIE), the emergency department information exchange (EDIE) and many electronic health records (EHR) making needed information about patients' prescriptions at the point of care.

I would urge the Legislature in conjunction with the Oregon Health Authority to explore additional funding for the PDMP. The costs of providing this needed service are not necessarily stable. While fees provide a steady stream of funding, it is limited in supporting the expanding services of the PDMP. The only other funding the PDMP is able to pursue at this point is grant funding which is unstable at best. When the PDMP is called upon to provide additional services funding has not been allocated to cover those services. As an example, when the statute was changed to permit PDMP access through HIEs, EDIE and EHRs, the Oregon Health Authority

indicated there was no fiscal impact. On the face of it, it was evident that was an inaccurate statement. The increased vendor costs associated with establishing the PDMP gateway as well as ongoing vendor and maintenance costs should have been evident at the time the legislation permitting this was introduced.

In closing, I heartily support the fee increase. I also encourage your committee and the Oregon Legislative Assembly work with the Oregon Health Authority to stabilize the funding of the PDMP through funds in addition to fees paid by Oregon's prescribers and the grant funding that is unstable at best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CA', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chris Apgar, CISSP, C|CISO  
CEO & President