

Submitter: Sara Rohrs
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB607

Sunday, Feb. 19, 2023

Senator Deb Patterson, chair and other members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

My name is Sarah Rohrs. I live in Salem. I am writing to express my strong support of SB 607 which, if passed, would require the Oregon Health Authority to study the membership of the Oregon Pain Management Commission.

This bill is a vital step in returning the commission's focus back to advocacy, treatment and education for those Oregonians in acute and chronic pain. Over time, the commission has veered away from this mission and is now overly-focused on addiction and advancing an anti-opioid agenda.

The aim to restrict physicians' use of opioids to treat acute and chronic pain has caused incalculable and unnecessary suffering among people of all ages, including veterans, seniors and children. In the last 7 years, countless Oregonians have undergone forced tapering of their pain medication, a cruel action that leaves many in daily misery, bed-bound and contemplating suicide. Further, patients new to chronic pain are not getting enough pain medication to control their pain and find relief.

Addicts are an extremely small percentage of those who use opioid medication. The Oregon Pain Management Commission needs to represent people people in chronic or acute pain.. In addition, the commission needs to fulfill its entire mission spelled out in its bylaws.

As you deliberate, please consider those Oregonians in chronic pain who are unable, due to their untreated pain and physical limitations, to attend your hearing or sit at a computer to write out their testimony.

You have the power to assure their voices are heard on the Oregon Pain Management Commission.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sarah Rohrs