

Submitter: Sarah Rohrs
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB559

March 5, 2023

Chair Patterson and members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

I am writing to express opposition to SB 559 which would add veterinarians to the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. This is an ill-advised bill which poses a great potential for harm, pain and suffering to our beloved pets and livestock.

The bill seems to suggest there is a problem with the prescriptions veterinarians dispense. Yet there is nothing to indicate drugs veterinarians prescribe to pets and livestock contribute, in any meaningful way, to the drug problem in Oregon, or to overdoses and deaths due illegal fentanyl.

Adding veterinarians to the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program would create an additional layer of reporting and monitoring, potentially resulting in greater costs and a chilling effect on vets dispensing pain medication to suffering animals. Vets and their offices would, additionally, need to have access to and to monitor information about the prescriptions animal owners have received. This information would have little, to no, bearing on the care of animals.

One unintended consequence is that veterinarians could stop dispensing pain medications to animals simply to avoid the costs and head-aches. And that would usher pain and suffering onto the animals we love and care for. Is that right or fair?

And how will depriving animals of pain medication stop overdoses and deaths from illegal fentanyl use?

Please vote No on SB 559 and stop this ill-advised bill from moving forward.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sarah Rohrs