

Submitter: Nicole Hatch

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure: SB559

My name is Dr. Nicole Hatch. I am a veterinarian working in Keizer, Oregon. This is testimony opposing this motion. This would severely limit care for pets. I should not have access to my clients medical history. This is a violation of their privacy. I feel that this could limit care of my actual patients- dogs and cats. The pets that I am treating are not humans, dosing is very different for pets, something that is constantly questioned by pharmacists. The amount of controlled substances scripted by veterinarians is minimal. Trying to lump our profession into a large contributor of opioid abuse is not even accurate. We even have problems grams in place on our pharmacy program that lets us know when a prescription is fillable. If a written prescription is sent with a client a pharmacist will not fill if it is too early.

My other concerns is the time added to our workload, cost for updating programs, training staff, etc. In a profession that is already that is plagued by burnout, constant turnover in staff, and dealing with being short handed on a daily basis- this motion would only compound that problem. This would take away the focus on care of our patients, dogs and cats—not their owners.

I am not a pharmacist. I am not a human physician. I should not have access to information that violates my clients privacy, I am treating their pet. This is the reason I entered this profession, my love of animals, this would be another barrier in an already long list of barriers that this profession is dealing with, i.e. not enough staff, rising costs of care, long wait times, specialist veterinarians having limited appointments, and emergency care that is also becoming cost prohibitive or time prohibitive with over 6 hour wait times.

I am strongly opposed. Thank you for your time.