



Representative Bobby Levy

Serving Umatilla, Union & Wallowa Counties

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Bobby Levy, State Representative for House District 58. I am testifying in support of HB 3258.

Oregon is suffering from an epidemic of drug abuse. It is impossible to go a day without hearing the word fentanyl talked about or seeing it in the news. Prescription painkillers serve as an easy introduction to the world of addiction and substance abuse. It is all too common that some people start taking prescription painkillers for a legitimate medical condition and end up becoming addicted. This addiction leads towards stronger and stronger substances to scratch the itch of addiction. HB 3258 serves a role in fighting the epidemic of drug abuse in the state, by requiring all pharmacies to monitor and report on prescriptions of not just class II -IV drugs but also class V drugs as well. These changes to Oregon's prescription drug monitoring program were recommended all the way back in 2018, that was 5 years ago. But it has taken us to the point of extreme and open drug use to implement these changes.

While class V drugs are federally recognized as the lowest potential for substance abuse, these drugs are still important to include in our monitoring. For instance, codeine cough syrups which are well known to be abused are included in this class.

42 of our sister states have similar legislation to HB 3258, adding class V prescription drugs to their monitoring and reporting system. Oregon is nationally known for the issue of drug abuse we are facing, yet we are one of eight states requiring only the minimal monitoring and reporting for prescription drugs.

We have ignored the recommendations from our own state agency and have been ignorant to what 42 other states have seen as important enough change to pass legislation on. Oregon proudly leads the nation in many areas, but the issue of addressing substance abuse we have fallen dangerously behind.

Oregon's drug problem has reached a state where any change we can make to address and reduce the problem must be done. Colleagues, please join in voting yes for HB 3258 and help combat this unprecedented drug abuse epidemic scouring our great state.

This legislation and the -3 amendment are powerful tools to fight against drug abuse in Oregon. This is one of 12 action items recommended by the late Secretary of State Dennis Richardson in the 2018 audit, "Constraints on Oregon's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Limit the State's Ability to Help Address Opioid Misuse and Abuse." The introduced provisions of HB 3258 require the monitoring of prescription drugs classified in Schedule V of the federal Controlled Substances Act. While Schedule V drugs have the lowest potential for abuse compared to other controlled substances, monitoring their prescription and use fills a gap in fighting America's substance abuse epidemic.

The -3 amendment requires the Oregon Health authority to contract with an IT vendor to provide secure connections between electronic systems, prescribers, and pharmacies. It exempts naloxone and drugs containing pseudoephedrine or ephedrine from substances subject to PDMP monitoring. Lastly, it requires the disclosure of minimum PDMP information necessary to specified medical assistance program staff and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

I urge the committee to support this bill to fight the scourge of substance abuse in Oregon. This bill will not eliminate substance abuse entirely, but it will help keep overlooked sources of abuse off the street.

Best,

Rep. Bobby Levy, HD 58

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobby Levy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.