

May 3, 2023

TO: The Honorable Senator Deb Patterson, Chair
The Honorable Senator Cedric Hayden, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health Care

FROM: Laura Chisholm, PhD, MPH
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SUBJECT: House Bill 3258 Enhancements and Support to the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden, and members of the committee; my name is Dr. Laura Chisholm. I am the manager for the Injury and Violence Prevention Program within the Oregon Health Authority's Public Health Division, which administers the Oregon Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP).

The PDMP is a tool that displays patient data on controlled prescription medications dispensed by retail pharmacies. It enables providers to view their patients' comprehensive prescription histories and make informed decisions about prescribing controlled substances.

Since the PDMP's inception and the establishment of OHA's overdose prevention program, risky prescribing and deaths due to prescription opioid overdoses have declined substantially in Oregon. While this is good news for patient safety, the overdose epidemic is continually evolving and requires a nimble response. Following an audit of the PDMP in 2018, the Secretary of State Audits Division released a follow up report last fall. In addition to noting improvements our program made in response to the audit recommendations, the report highlighted areas where the Oregon PDMP has not been able to keep up with national best

practices due to our PDMP statute. HB 3258A responds to some of the report's findings.

Four key aspects of the bill are particularly important to improving the PDMP's functionality and sustainability:

1. **Expanding the Range of Collected Drugs:** By including Schedule V drugs in the list of monitored substances, the bill will provide prescribers a more comprehensive view of their patients' prescription histories and help identify potential misuse or diversion.
2. **Inclusion of Veterinarian-Prescribed Drugs:** Including veterinarian prescribed drugs in the PDMP will align Oregon with emerging nationwide best practices. Monitoring the prescribing and dispensing of veterinary drugs will help ensure appropriate use and minimize the risk of diversion. Including veterinary data without making veterinarians PDMP users will keep intact the PDMP's current level of patient privacy protection.
3. **Protecting Access to the PDMP from Clinicians' Electronic Workflows:** The mandate to provide access to the PDMP through a connection integrated into health IT systems prioritizes a key technology that supports regular use of the PDMP among prescribers. Providing streamlined access to the PDMP from within electronic medical record systems makes PDMP queries part of patient care workflows, which improves utilization and enhances patient safety. Putting this requirement into statute will keep this functionality in place, which is currently utilized by more than 80% of Oregon prescribers and has become a crucial timesaver in many medical practices.
4. **Data Sharing with Medicaid Director, Prescription Drug Program and Centers for Medicaid and Medicare (CMS):** Expanding data access to the state Medicaid director and prescription drug program supports patient safety and quality pain management for members of the Oregon Health Plan. Access to PDMP data will enable the Medicaid program to identify high-risk prescribing and promote safer prescribing practices among Medicaid providers. Sharing data with CMS will enable the PDMP to qualify for federal funds to support technological advancements and system improvements, including health IT integration.

In conclusion, House Bill 3258A will enhance our Prescription Drug Monitoring Program's capacity to support responsible prescribing practices and enable OHA to more fully implement audit recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am happy to answer questions or provide further information in service to the committee.