



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 2, 2023

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden, and Members of the Senate Healthcare Committee,

My name is Tawna Sanchez and I am the State Representative for House District 43, North and Northeast Portland. I am writing in support of HB 3258, which would make much-needed improvements to Oregon's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP).

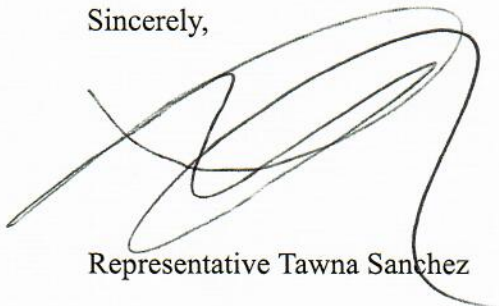
A 2021 audit by the Oregon Secretary of State's amazing audits division found that Oregon has one of the weakest PDMP in the nation. In fact, we have nothing. As record numbers of Oregonians continue to die from opioid addictions—addictions often fuelled by legally prescribed drugs—it is imperative that we address these weaknesses. The current PDMP fails to capture schedule V controlled substances, does not require long-term care pharmacies to track prescriptions, and does not provide suspicious prescriber reports to licensing boards.

HB 3258 takes necessary steps to monitor and limit prescription opioid misuse in Oregon. It strengthens our state's PDMP by requiring pharmacies to report the dispensation of prescription drugs classified in schedules II through V under the Federal Controlled Substances Act. HB 3258 further mandates that these prescriptions be tracked in an electronic database, allowing hospitals, pharmacies, and other healthcare providers to review a patient's prescription history before prescribing new drugs. By centralizing drug prescription data, it ensures that the OHA can monitor all federally controlled substances.

This bill has been carefully crafted to protect patient privacy and respect Oregon's opioid harm reduction efforts. HB 3258 exempts the prescription and dispensation of naloxone, pseudoephedrine, and ephedrine from reporting requirements. Without this legislation, Oregon's PDMP will continue to fail the very people it is designed to protect. HB 3258 will prevent overdoses, increase prescriber accountability, and save lives.

I urge you to support HB 3258 and pass it out of committee with a "Do Pass" recommendation.

Sincerely,



Representative Tawna Sanchez