

Submitter: Caroline Lackowitz
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: HB3258

I oppose this because it affects me negatively. It affects my fellow chronic pain warriors as well. The chronic pain community keeps getting targeted and punished for illnesses, diseases, conditions, pain, and medical problems that we didn't ask to have. The chronic pain community, the community that struggles with invisible illnesses, myself included, did NOT cause the "opioid crisis". Prescription opioids did NOT cause the "opioid crisis". There is government data PROVING that prescription opioids did not cause the "opioid crisis". But that information is conveniently ignored and excluded. There is also NO DATA, NO PROOF, NO information that suggests that chronic pain patients are hurting their pets in order to obtain pain medications through the veterinarian. Am I saying that not a single person ever has never done that? No. There's always going to be someone who does something they aren't supposed to. But there is NO evidence that supports the idea that pain patients are doing it. I'm a pet owner, and I would NEVER ever entertain the idea of hurting one of my pets to get pain medication. I would just suffer. But if this gets approved, it will HURT both animals AND humans alike. Animals get injured, it happens. Just like people. Or sick. Or they have to have a surgery. A lot of chronic pain patients have pets because having a pet can help both your physical and mental health. Some chronic pain patients have service dogs that alert them to medical emergencies before they even happen. But those animals aren't immune to getting hurt or sick. So if this passes, an animal that got sick or injured can be denied pain medicine based off the PDMP of their human owner. Even if their owner has always taken their medicine correctly, never abused it, actually needs it to have any quality of life. They could just use that to try to say the person deliberately hurt the animal to obtain pain medicine. Then deny the medicine for the animal. That will hurt the animal and is unfair to the animal who has done nothing wrong. ALSO, it could negatively effect the human patient in the way that then doctors could use that information to say since the person had an injured or sick animal or one that needed surgery, at some point in their life, that they are "drug seeking" or "faking it" or tons of other things and then deny treating the patients pain. They won't look at the circumstances, or when it was, or why, or if it's multiple vets, or happening over and over, or anything like that. This will be used as a blanket generalization that doesn't take any specifics into play. It's supposed to help "safer prescribing" but all it's going to do is harm to both animals and humans alike. Is that what you want to do? Cause more harm to not only human patients but now animals as well? It just keeps the stigma (based on misinformation and botched research) going. Please, I'm asking you - do NOT approve/pass this bill. It will hurt people. It will hurt animals. It will hurt vets. It's unfair to the chronic pain community, who do NOT hurt their pets for meds. We have done nothing wrong. Our

pets have done nothing wrong. Our vets have done nothing wrong. Please do not approve this bill. Thank you.