

Submitter: Richard Lawhern

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: SB607

I offer the following from my over 25 years' experience as a subject matter expert on public policy for regulation of prescription opioid pain relievers and of clinicians who employ them. My work as a patient advocate may be verified in a google search, with several representative examples noted here:

<https://www.practicalpainmanagement.com/author/27318/lawhern>.

From this background, I urge passage of SB 607. Given the history of unscientific anti-opioid advocacy expressed by the Oregon Chronic Pain Task Force, it is important that membership on the Oregon Medical Board should now reflect a balanced view of pain management science. Membership should be grounded upon pertinent clinical experience in face-to-face relationships with chronic pain patients. Thorough study of the publication records and public positions of Board members with respect to practice standards is likewise essential.

I suggest that those who study the membership of the Board will benefit from awareness of the gross errors of past public health policy on pain in Oregon. A December 4th 2018 letter to the Honorable Kate Brown, Governor of Oregon, summarizes some of these errors. It is signed by three past Presidents of the American Academy of Pain Medicine, the Executive Director of the Academy of Integrative Pain Management, and the Chair of the AMA Pain and Palliative Medicine Specialty. It may be read at

<https://lynnwebstermd.com/2018/12/08/letter-to-governor-kate-brown/>