

February 13, 2019

The Honorable Laurie Monnes Anderson
Chair, Senate Committee on Health Care
900 Court St. NE
Salem OR 97301

RE: Opposition to SB 150

Dear Chair Monnes Anderson and members of the Senate Committee on Health Care:

Thank you for the opportunity to share Kaiser Permanente's concerns about Senate Bill 150, which requires pharmacists to dispense controlled substances in Schedule II of the federal Controlled Substances Act in lockable vials.

Kaiser Permanente has concerns about SB 150 in three areas: security, cost and waste.

Security

KPNW is concerned that the locking vials currently available on the market are [not actually secure](#) and could provide a false sense of safety for the people receiving them, putting our pharmacists in a difficult position.

Cost

Not every person who gets a Schedule II drug will need or want a locking mechanism. Mandating that they be dispensed in a locking vial that is not truly secure adds cost to the already high prices of pharmaceuticals without additional benefit.

Waste

The locking vials currently on the market vary in size and material, but all have more packaging than what is currently in use. This will have a meaningful impact to the waste stream without adding a tangible safety benefit, as noted above.

Kaiser Permanente is committed to ensuring that controlled substances remain in the hands of those who need them. We have been successful in dramatically lowering the number of prescriptions written for opioids and other controlled substances as well as reducing the number of pills per prescription. We have drug take back receptacles in our pharmacies available for anyone to dispose of unwanted pills and are helping community pharmacies do the same. We look forward to the day when a secure, locking vial may be available to prevent unwanted access to Schedule II drugs, but a truly safe product is not yet available. Please join KPNW in opposing SB 150.

Sincerely,

Amy Fauver
Director of Government and Community Relations