Bhargavbhai K. Patel, MD. Internal Medicine Department Chair North Bend Medical Center and Bay Area Hospital Coos Bay, OR 97420 541-267-5151 <u>dr.Bpatel@nbmconline.com</u>

January, 30 2019

Representative Greenlick Healthcare committee members 900 Courth St NE H-493 Salem, Oregon 97301 503-297-4216

RE: **Oregon House Bill 2698 and Senate Bill 136.** Bill Summary: removes 10 day supply limitation on prescriptions for certain controlled substances issued by Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists.

RE: **Oregon House Bill 2188 and Senate Bill 128**. Bill Summary: directs Board of Medical Imaging to issue a permit to supervise fluoroscopy to qualified Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, authorizes Board of Medical Imaging, Oregon State Board of Nursing and Oregon Health Authority to adopt rules.

Dear Chair Greenlick and vital members of the Healthcare Committee

As the Chair of the internal medicine departments at North Bend Medical Center and Bay Area Hospital I write you today in support of the above bills that seek to help mitigate the opioid crisis facing our patients statewide. As primary care providers, our practices are already working overtime to fill the needs of our patients, many of whom must wait 3-6 months to find a provider. The opioid crisis and patients facing chronic pain conditions and their primary care providers struggle to find pain management providers to help wean off of the reliance on dangerous opioid medications. Patients statewide must travel hundreds of miles and wait many months for appointments to see an ever decreasing number of providers specializing in opioid deprescribing and chronic pain management. We need more highly qualified providers such as Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA's) to help safely care for these patients. Our CRNA colleagues are already entrusted to independently prescribe the most dangerous medications in the operative and peri-operative setting, and wave extensive training in multimodal pain management therapies, removing the 10-day restriction will afford our patients more access to safe quality care.

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses with advanced training in interventional pain management have been safely employing fluoroscopic imaging modalities to provide pain relief to chronic pain patients statewide and across the country. Many of my patients that I care for on a regular basis have been able to reduce and eliminate the reliance on opioid medications for pain relief with the help of interventional modalities. The above bill to permit qualified advanced Practice Registered Nurses to supervise fluoroscopy will provide better access to cost effective care for these patients as well.

I have read the bills above, and in lieu of this crisis that we are facing, I support the above bills to 1) remove 10 day supply limitation on prescriptions for certain controlled substances by Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists; and 2) grand Board of Medial Imaging to issue a permit to supervise fluoroscopy to qualified APRNs.

Kindly regards,

v

Patel Bhargan bhai K) MD