

SHEMIA FAGAN
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Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

I am Shemia Fagan, Oregon's 28th Secretary of State. My mission as Oregon's Secretary of State's is to build trust between the people of Oregon and state government so Oregon's public services can make a positive difference in peoples' everyday lives. The Audits Division is one of the most powerful tools I have to fulfill that mission, to make sure that Oregon's limited resources are making a real difference where they are needed most.

In June of 2022, the Audits Division issued a [Recommendations Follow-up Report related to the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program](#) (PDMP). One of our recommendations from this follow up report is to add veterinarians to those covered under the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. Our office's 2019 report of the Oregon Veterinary Medical Examining Board, conducted by a different audit team, also recommended veterinarians participate in the state's PDMP. This is why I am supporting [SB 559](#).

Nationally, veterinarians have reported numerous cases of pet owners intentionally harming their pets to obtain drugs. This has occurred in multiple states, including Oregon.

Each state operates their own PDMP, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention encourages using these monitoring systems. The intent of the program is to promote public health & safety, improve patient care, and support the appropriate use of prescription drugs.

[SB 559](#) is a needed step to strengthen Oregon's fight against the opioid epidemic. This practice has been adopted in 21 other states such California and Washington, have adopted this practice. Oregon should too.

This issue is close my heart because my immediate family has struggled with opioid addiction. Please take action to address this risk as well as our other recommendations to improve Oregon's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Fagan". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Shemia Fagan

Oregon Secretary of State