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Oregon State Senate

Senate Committee On Health Care

SB 559

Hearing March 3, 2023

Senators of the Committee:

While SSB559 seems well intentioned it is also a solution in search of a problem. Veterinary prescription drugs are a miniscule contributor to the drug abuse problem in America. There are already strict controls in place restricting the handling, record-keeping and dispensing of all controlled drugs that result in considerable expense to the retail costs of these products to the consumer while protecting the public.

As a practicing veterinarian, I am not authorized to view my client's prescription drug history. I do not want access to that information, I don't need it, nor do I think my clients want me to have access to it, yet this bill requires I have it! Do you want your veterinarian examining your personal controlled drug history?

SB559 would actually corrupt the existing database. If a client brings her dog in for me to treat, I would have to enter the pet's narcotic prescription (such as its seizure medication) in the owner's database. If the next time the same dog was presented for treatment by the owner's daughter or neighbor for treatment, I would presumably enter the prescription into another person's data unless I had written permission to enter it into the owners'. In either event, how would this enhance the system's data? I would suggest, that in fact, it would effectively corrupt it.

Over half of the cost of a controlled drug prescription is now due to regulatory compliance. We are regulated by the DEA, the Oregon Board of Veterinary Examiners and The Oregon Board of Pharmacy. Complying with this rule would force the cost of medication up once again by an estimated 50-100% This would place another unnecessary cost on the pet owner and veterinary clinic with no discernable benefit.

SB559 is a poorly contrived bill that will only burden citizens who are already legally compliant and medically responsible. It will not help stem the drug abuse crisis. Please vote NO on this bill.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bob Bullard DVM