

Submitter: Kathleen Hansen
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB559

Good afternoon my name is Kathleen Hansen and I am a board member of the coalition for patient rights and patient advocate as well as a chronic pain patient myself. I've had over 30 surgeries including my second major neck surgery just 4 weeks ago. I share to provide context

I am urging you to vote NO on SB 559

Adding additional hoops for an already swamped field makes it prohibitive even more than it already is. I hear more and more stories of vets performing surgery and not offering pain medication for the animals which is barbaric. People are avoiding spaying and neutering because they don't want their animals to suffer.

Tying the prescription to the human and having to look up the information is an invasion on our rights.

The added fees purposed increases the costs for everyone, inflation has made it impossible to afford life right now.

At the very bottom of the proposed legislation is a change removing the member from the public from PDMP commission. This is a vital position that allows the only voice to be heard as a representative of millions of Oregonians.

I propose an amendment be added to add a categorically complex patient voice on both the PDMP commission and oregon pain commission. We need the proper checks and balances that are not happening. Do not agree to remove the only voice for our citizens.

A categorically complex patient is one that has much greater needs than typical patients often having 10 or more varying diagnoses, many may be rare or rarely seen with few treatment options. These patients consume the largest amount of government funding via Medicaid, Medicare and long term care needs. Making changes that increase barriers to this population increases the tax burden on citizens in oregon. We deserve to have a voice, a better quality of life. Oregon has refused to make changes after the CDC came back in 2022 stating they never intended for their recommendations to lead to forced tapering and flat out refusal to treat pain.

It is estimated 1 in 5 Oregonians have a chronic or complex condition.

These regulations have left doctors, hospitals and now pharmacies who are making regulation changes based on fear rather than what's best for the patient. The level of trauma I hear from patients who are left suffering post op because physicians are too scared to prescribe adequate dosing is astounding, this is especially true for categorically complex patients as they often need much higher doses and some for longer due to genetic issues, metabolism and healing.

Someone who has had only 1 surgery in their life will have much different needs than someone who has had 30.

I urge you to vote no, and add an amendment leaving a seat at the table for patient voices to be heard.

Thank you for your consideration, it's time to stop making decisions based on fear and focus on logic and human rights.

Kathleen Hansen