

Submitter: Stefani McCallum
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB559

Please stop criminalizing the practice of medicine. Please stop searching and tracking private citizens medical information without any reasonable cause against us. Please don't add veterinarians to the PMDD. This will not stop people from using substances, but it will prevent innocent animals from receiving adequate pain treatments. This will increase the stress on veterinarians. It is harder than ever to access veterinary care for our animals. From my perspective veterinarians are already overworked and overstretched. Why would we add more stress to their professional practice? Do we really not trust our doctors and veterinarians to do what is best for their patients? Do we really need to increase the surveillance state tracking veterinarians?

If passed this will cause animals to suffer more. And the data has already shown that reducing access to safe prescription pain medications increases the number of overdose deaths due to fentanyl poisoning when people buy counterfeit drugs on the illicit market. These policies have increased harm to both pain patients and substance users (both long term addicts and kids experimenting with what looks like a small safe dose). The PMDD causes harm to Oregonians, criminalizes the actions of patients and doctors, and tracks patients private medical information.

These algorithms are proprietary so we can't know exactly what is written in the program. We do know that many algorithms are biased. These programs disproportionately harm people with multiple, complex, and rare diseases. The disabled, females, BIPOC, LGBTQ, and people of lower income are already facing systemic barriers to the medical care we need. Adding pets and veterinarians to the PMDD will only serve to expand this harm. Are some of us too sick to have a pet? This will once again disproportionately harm disabled people, our service animals, emotional companions, and pets. Will we restrict access to a pet's medication because their human is already prescribed medication? Do we deny a human pain treatment because their pet received pain medication for an injury, surgery, or chronic ailment? And who gets to decide- our doctors and veterinarians the understand the medical situation of their patients or the PMDD algorithm? Do we criminalize veterinarians that treat our pets pain? Do we criminalize doctors that treat our pain? Will doctors and veterinarians continue to treat pain in a way that is based in the best medical practices or will fear influence their practice? Millions of patients across America already know the answer.

Another huge concern with this bill is their plan to remove the only complex medical patient from the board and replace them with a tech specialist. Patients are being

harmful by these policies. We need representation. The disabled community cannot understand how these policies impact people with complex health problems, multiple diagnoses, rare diseases, high impact pain, and other daily life altering symptoms. The able bodied people cannot begin to understand our lived experience and our daily struggles. We deserve to have at least one person on the board speaking to our needs. We deserve to have our seat at the table. We deserve to have our voice heard when you are creating policies that so profoundly impact our lives- profoundly impacting our ability to participate in life, our ability to access any medical care as we have become a liability that most doctors aren't willing to expose themselves to. Please do not allow powerful boards to make policies that so intimately impact our lives, and our family's lives, without at least one of us at the table. We need our voices heard. These policies are causing so much harm and this will continue unless you listen to the complex patients perspective. Thank you for taking time to read and consider my testimony. Please vote no on Bill 559.