

**TAWNA SANCHEZ**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
DISTRICT 43  
NORTH AND NORTHEAST PORTLAND



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

March 1, 2023

Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden and Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

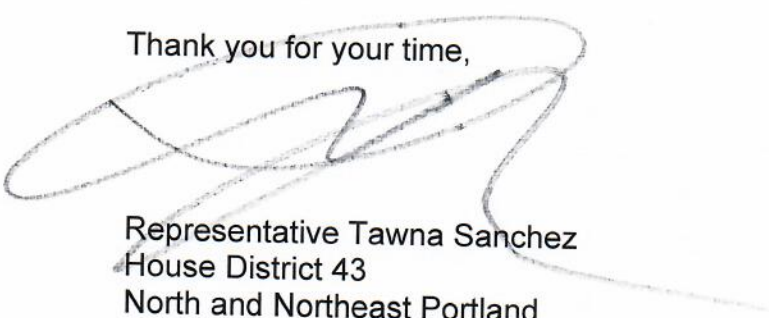
My testimony is in support of Senate Bill 559.

In 2009, the Oregon prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) was created to address prescription abuse and misuse to improve public health outcomes. Oregon's PDMP requires pharmacies to record prescriptions that have a high probability for abuse into a database- Schedule II, III, and IV drugs or "drugs of interest" such as pseudoephedrine, naloxone, and gabapentin. This has served as a tool to improve prescription practices and protect patients. However, the latest report by the Oregon Audit Division found that Oregon has one of the weakest PDMP in the U.S. They also found Oregon to have the highest rate of misuse of prescription opioids in the nation. In order to promote public health and safety while fighting the opioid epidemic, it is of utmost importance that we adopt practices to improve our PDMP. Strengthening the PDMP starts with House Bill 3258, which will require monitoring and reporting of prescription drugs classified in schedule V of federal Controlled Substances Act. 42 states have already adopted this policy.

In addition, the current law does not list practicing veterinarians as members of the PDMP. With Senate Bill 559, veterinarians will be required to participate in Oregon's PDMP. Adding veterinarians will allow the Oregon Health Authority to better understand the substances being prescribed in our state, as well as be a tool for veterinarians to detect and prevent drug diversion through their practices. 21 states have already adopted laws similar in practice. The information supported by Senate Bill 559 will allow Oregon to be proactive in the prevention of opioid abuse.

This issue is deserving of legislative attention and I urge the committee to vote in favor of Senate Bill 559.

Thank you for your time,



Representative Tawna Sanchez  
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North and Northeast Portland