

Dear Chair Patterson, members of the Committee,  
For the record, my name is Timothy Whitcomb, and I testify to oppose HB3258.

HB3258 will not improve overdoses in Oregon. My nephew passed away in 2019 from an overdose of illicit fentanyl, he did not want to die.

In contrast I have loved ones who live with debilitating pain conditions who are treated like criminals in Oregon, and woefully under treated for pain and stigmatized for no good reason other than they depend on opioids to manage intractable pain conditions to enjoy quality of life able bodied people do. They are not drug addicts, yet are treated sub human by physicians in Oregon simply for their choice to have pain relief that works. It is also patently absurd to assume that pain patients are exploring every reasonable alternative to Hope you're a pain medication but for some people that's all that works. These people need to be protected from these overzealous laws as well intended as they are. They are harming Oregonians, some even turning to suicide because they can't get proper pain care. How can this be OK with anybody passing this legislation? Why is their life less important? The focus should not be on people who are being managed for serious health conditions. Adding more medications to the pdmp will not help patients but add more governmental bias and misappropriation of data to the detriment of Oregon's health system.

Oregon is working with a backwards thinking modality that has been proven incorrect by the AMA 2022 report. Reduction of prescribing has had zero impact on illicit fentanyl and it's actually exacerbated the problem. Why doesn't Oregon care about chronic and intractable pain patients like other states?. Colorado passed a patient protection bill, while Oregon continues to over hype a patient population as the scapegoats. Using 2016 data to justify monitoring drugs that are having a little to no impact on the war on fentanyl crisis is a waste of tax payer money and With devastating consequences to Oregonians needlessly suffering. Please vote no one HB3258.