

Submitter: Kelsey Proctor
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: HB3258

My name is Kelsey Proctor and I am a public school teacher and former CareOregon (Medicaid provider) employee. I vehemently oppose this measure.

Oregon Medicaid has a history of force-tapering all patients on painkillers to 'safer alternatives' without any consideration as to whether those 'safer alternatives' actually work effectively to treat their pain. For patients with genetic conditions, cancer, joint replacements, degenerative disc disease, and arthritis, this is devastating and can be life-ruining.

Oregon legislators and voters continue to act as if people on Medicaid are the same addicts they see homeless on the side of the road. They are not. Applying for and qualifying for Medicaid is an arduous process and, frankly, very few addicts have the organization skills to apply and follow through with the steps.

Medicaid patients don't need their pain medications tracked by an algorithm. They don't need to be unceremoniously cut off from the medications that make it possible for them to stay employed, parent their children, and remain effective members to society.

This bill says it has no fiscal impact or revenue impact and that is simply not true. If OHP takes pain medications away from working-class citizens and those citizens lose their ability to work and function as a result, Oregon will lose their tax revenue and will have to pay to support them through programs like SNAP instead. The unnecessary human suffering should matter to you most, but if it doesn't, please vote no until you at least understand the real financial ramifications of cutting off vital healthcare to some of Oregon's most vulnerable citizens.