

Submitter: Rebecca McCoy

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: SB607

Submitter: Rebecca McCoy

On Behalf Of: Pain Patients in Oregon

Committee: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: SB607

I support SB 607 because as a pain patient I have had almost no one to advocate for me and it is very much needed.

As of two months ago my three children, partner, and I have become homeless. My partner and I used to both have full time jobs and we were saving to buy a house. That was before my doctor stopped prescribing me pain medication that allowed me to work full time and raise my kids. It was also before my partner (who is black, I say this for a reason I will explain in a minute) broke his neck in four places in a car accident. The accident was a year and a half ago and his doctors have refused to give him any pain medication even after surgeries. I honestly think it's because he is black. I've read articles that say black people are even less likely to be treated with opioid pain medication. My partner not only can't work, but he has pain that prevents him from driving, watching our kids, and interacting with all of us. He has undergone procedure after procedure and nothing has help, but it has made it worse.

My family needs someone to advocate for us. We need the Oregon Pain Management Commission to be the way it was intended to be when it was created. We need them to be our voice. They need to be asking for people who are living with pain to interact with them and inform them of what it's like for us. They can't advocate for me or tell the legislative body and the Governor my concerns if they don't know them. Too many of the members of the Commission are focused on addiction and are opposed to long term opioid treatment. They should care about helping patients with whatever they need help with whether it's medication or other treatments, nothing should be off the table. It should be about promoting individualized care, not adhering to certain decisions that are not based on what is best treating each person as an individual.

I can't do the things I used to do. It's hard go from getting proper medication to not getting it and watching my life and function decline. Please help the membership to return to focusing on pain patients and our concerns.

Thank you for your time.