

Submitter: Devon Lawson-McCourt
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: HB4150

Dear Esteemed Members of the Senate Committee on Healthcare,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for House Bill 4150, a legislative proposal of critical importance that promises to revolutionize the way we approach patient care in the context of drug overdoses. This Act, with its compassionate foresight, offers a beacon of hope for a future where healthcare providers are more intimately involved in the welfare of their patients, particularly in the aftermath of such traumatic events as drug overdoses.

At its core, HB4150 seeks to bridge the gap between isolated incidents of overdose and ongoing patient care. By authorizing the Oregon Health Authority, or a designated third party, to provide electronic notifications to practitioners when a patient experiences a fatal or nonfatal overdose, this Act ensures that those in a position to help are fully informed and ready to intervene. This not only fosters a more responsive healthcare system but also underscores our collective responsibility to safeguard the well-being of each individual within our community.

The bill's thoughtful approach to privacy and data protection further exemplifies its commitment to respectful and dignified care. By limiting the use and retention of practitioner information, HB4150 strikes a delicate balance between the need for intervention and the right to privacy, ensuring that practitioners can act in their patients' best interests without overstepping bounds.

Moreover, the temporal scope of the Act, with its sunset clause set for January 1, 2028, provides a unique opportunity for us to assess its effectiveness and make necessary adjustments. This demonstrates a commitment not just to action but to learning and adaptation, principles that are vital for the evolution of healthcare practices.

The implementation of HB4150 represents a step towards a more interconnected and empathetic healthcare system, where the focus extends beyond individual treatment episodes to encompass a continuous, holistic view of patient health. It acknowledges the complex web of factors contributing to drug overdoses and positions healthcare practitioners as crucial allies in the ongoing battle against this crisis.

In conclusion, HB4150 is more than just legislation; it is a testament to our collective commitment to fostering a healthcare environment that prioritizes empathy, responsiveness, and patient-centered care. I urge you to support this bill, not only as

a legislative measure but as a moral imperative to protect and uplift the most vulnerable among us. Together, we can create a future where every individual has the support and care they need to overcome the challenges posed by drug overdoses.

Thank you for considering my testimony on this vital issue.

Respectfully,
Devon Lawson-McCourt