

Emerson Levy
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
House District 53



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday February 25th, 2025

Hello Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Javadi and Nelson, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Emerson Levy, and I am the State Representative for House District 53, representing parts of Bend, Redmond, and Sisters. I am here today to talk about HB 3211, which requires the Oregon Health Association to develop an accessible form for patients to refuse opioid medications.

This committee is not a stranger to the harmful effects of opioids when misused, including not to sound like a vintage from the 1980's but for heroin and fentanyl users, many started their addiction via a legal prescription. As a state and a country we have made a lot of changes in pain management, and we need to continue to look for upstream solutions for mitigating addictive medicine.

To address this pressing problem, HB 3211 will create an easily accessible, online nonopioid directive form to inform health care and emergency medical service providers on patients' preferences regarding opioid administration. The form would be incorporated into existing patient health forms and can be filled out by the individual or their health care representative. In doing this, we are encouraging healthcare providers to explore non-opioid medication for the treatment of pain and limit the misuse of opioids, especially for those who are more at-risk for addiction, such as young people or individuals with a family history of addiction.

Michigan passed the same law in 2019, Michigan is to my knowledge the only form that was endorsed by members of the medical community because of the surgical and emergency room exemptions.

This form can be revoked at any time by the patient or their healthcare representative. It does not prohibit the use of opioids, as there are exceptions for emergencies where these drugs are medically necessary or for intraoperative use. In these cases, proper documentation is needed and there would be follow-up care for substance use disorder treatment. The bill also grants certain individuals civil and criminal immunity for failure to prescribe an opioid medication on the basis of complying with a patient's form.

Many other US states have also adopted nonopioid directive policies, including Alaska, Connecticut, Louisiana, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania. Similar legislation is also

being introduced at the federal level to address this country-wide problem. Oregon must take part in this initiative to protect the health and safety of our citizens.

I urge the committee to support HB 3211, which empowers Oregonians to make informed decisions about the medications they receive and address the state-wide opioid crisis by lowering unnecessary opioid use, addiction, and chronic health issues.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Levy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Emerson Levy

State Representative, House District 53