

Testimony of SB 798

I have concerns about this bill the way it is written.

Firstly, Point number 5 regarding using a "single pharmacy" line in the agreement. Currently, there is a crisis regarding availability of these prescription opioids and several pharmacies do not have the medications available. While in theory having a single pharmacy to contact and rely on for dispensing is ideal, the reality is that patients are having to travel to 3-5 locations to attempt collecting their medications. So requiring that line in the agreement may be difficult to enforce and patients should not be penalized for it.

Secondly, the last point #6 regarding violations of the agreement as a Class C felony is an extreme measure. There are possible scenarios where the patient may not be at fault for having to receive extra medication. For example if their medication is stolen or lost, they will have to replace their medication. If said scenario occurs through no fault of the patient's, it is not appropriate for them to be in violation of the agreement and risk a class C felony charge. The wording needs to be changed to something more along the line of "if the patient knowingly violates" or "has multiple violations per the provider's discretion". Not everyone is perfect and though we all make mistakes, it is the provider who needs to take everything into consideration before determining the best course of action and not the state whose priority appears to be focused on penalizing violators of the agreement.

Respectfully,

Christopher Taylor, MD