

LATE

HB-2631-HD-1

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Testimony for PSM on 3/13/2018 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicholas Bronowski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Nishihara of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Subject: House Bill 2631 Relating to Electronic Prescription Accountability System

March 13, 2018

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this bill. My name is Dr. Nicholas Bronowski. I am a license Physical Therapist in the State of Hawaii, and I am testifying in strong support of H.B. 2631.

This bill will help the State of Hawaii for the following reasons:

As a Physical Therapist, I deal with a lot of patients that have pain. The primary reason for seeking medical attention can be suggested because someone is in pain. One thing you can say about the opioid abuse epidemic: it doesn't discriminate. The destructive power of the drugs, often first prescribed to treat this pain, has been seen to progressively get worse over the past couple of years even though there has been increasing public knowledge about it. The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) has begun a national campaign urging the public to consider physical therapy as a safe and effective alternative for the treatment of pain with #ChoosePT.

Yesterday, I was present at the Capitol with the Hawaii chapter of the APTA to present the benefits of skilled physical therapy (PT) treatment. During that time I was introduced to Bill HB2631 and could not let the opportunity pass to express my deepest concern about this issue and the ability to assist the patients in our communities by going straight to the source of the referral for opioid prescriptions.

I have seen first hand from some of my patients within this past year their difficulty with prescription pain medication to include opioids. The first patient that comes to mind is someone who has been suffering from a traumatic injury of her ribs. After surgery this patient was given high dose pain medications even though she had reported having a history of drug abuse. Further from surgery was then the ability to access physical therapy through direct access with her insurance company. During therapy this lady would report monthly refills for her Morphine prescription like clockwork. I educated continually to seek assistance for decreasing pain medication use and increase her PT for pain management, however, she stated that it has gotten too hard to not use the Morphine to the point where she couldn't handle a day of work without taking at least one pill. Patients such as this remind me of why I have been waiting for a bill like HB2631. These patients that become dependent on pain medications then have to seek appropriate help to rehab from the addiction of the body to the drug and could be potentially life threatening if stopping the medication Cold Turkey. If this bill passes it can help inform physicians of overprescribing and improve the ability for a patient to seek out other non-opioid treatment.

I believe that patients should choose other forms of pain management such as PT when the risks of opioid use outweigh the reward as well as:

- If patients want to do more than mask the pain
- Pain or function limitations are related to low back pain, osteoarthritis, cartilage tears, fibromyalgia, etc.
- Even in situations when opioids are prescribed, the CDC recommends that patients should receive "the lowest effective dosage," and opioids "should be combined" with nonopioid therapies, such as physical therapy.
- After 90 days from injury the pain is considered "chronic," and the risks for continued opioid use increase. An estimated 116 million Americans have chronic pain each year. The CDC guidelines note that nonopioid therapies are "preferred" for chronic pain and that "clinicians should consider opioid therapy only if expected benefits for both pain and function are anticipated to outweigh risks to the patient."

Physical Therapists are Doctor's in their field and are considered musculoskeletal specialists. In the new age of physician shortages and opioid epidemics, PT's should be considered as a form of direct access for a patient to utilize as primary care for the best way to manage pain and injury as well as decreasing health care costs across the board.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in strong support on this matter of great importance for families across the state.

LATE

Dr. Nicholas Bronowski, PT

2916 Date St. #20 B

Honolulu, HI 96816

(808) 546-0937

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Submitted on: 3/13/2018 10:41:51 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/13/2018 1:30:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andy Stenz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This seems to be a pretty common sense solution to letting docs know they are prescribing more than others. I appreciate that it's not a mandate but rather an informational based approach. It's directed at the people who make the decisions on the ground (not someone in some office somewhere) but gives options. I support this bill.

Mahalo, Andy Stenz