

April 21, 2021

The Honorable Ron Wyden
911 NE 11th Ave.
Suite 630
Portland, OR 97232

Senator Wyden,

I am writing to you today to ask for your support of the NOPAIN Act. The Non-Opioids Prevent Addiction In the Nation Act works to lessen the damage from the opioid epidemic and save thousands from falling into the pattern of addiction.

The legislation does this by addressing the very beginning of addiction which can be in the operating room and in doctors' offices. Prescription opioids result in thousands of people becoming persistent opioid users or even switching to heroin. This is especially prevalent in rural areas, like Clackamas County, where opioid prescriptions are dangerously plentiful, and alternatives to treat pain are not available, partly due to antiquated Medicare policies which make it hard to prescribe alternative pain relief medicines.

Rural counties, and even those in urban areas, need the NOPAIN Act to give Medicare beneficiaries non-addictive pain management medications and therapies and make them more available. Physical therapists and pain specialists are in short supply across rural America, yet our constituents still deserve to have the option of having the option to choose a non-addictive opioid alternative to treat their pain.

Currently, Medicare surgery patients are often prescribed a high number of opioids whether or not they need or want them, leaving an abundance of pills available for misuse. The NOPAIN Act would change this and remove policies that encourage the prescribing of opioids.

If we are to make real change against the opioid epidemic, we need help at the federal level -- we need **your** help.

Co-sponsoring the NOPAIN Act will save your constituents from falling prey to the disease of addiction and will save thousands more across the United States. Just a ten percent reduction in opioid prescriptions can result in hundreds of thousands of fewer patients becoming persistent opioid users each year. And with people catching up on their elective surgeries that were postponed during the pandemic, there is a coming wave of opioid prescriptions that must be slowed.

Please consider supporting the NOPAIN Act to help slow down, and stop, the opioid epidemic.

Sincerely,

Martha Schrader
Clackamas County Commissioner

April 21, 2021

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
121 SW Salmon Street.
Suite 1400
Portland, OR 97204

Senator Merkley,

I am writing to you today to ask for your support of the NOPAIN Act. The Non-Opioids Prevent Addiction In the Nation Act works to lessen the damage from the opioid epidemic and save thousands from falling into the pattern of addiction.

The legislation does this by addressing the very beginning of addiction which can be in the operating room and in doctors' offices. Prescription opioids result in thousands of people becoming persistent opioid users or even switching to heroin. This is especially prevalent in rural areas, like Clackamas County, where opioid prescriptions are dangerously plentiful, and alternatives to treat pain are not available, partly due to antiquated Medicare policies which make it hard to prescribe alternative pain relief medicines.

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Martha Schrader
Clackamas County Commissioner