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**Written Testimony of Rob Bovett
before the House Health Care Committee
in Support of Senate Bill 34**

Dear Chair Greenlick and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with written testimony in support of Senate Bill 34. On behalf of the Governor's Meth Task Force and the Oregon Alliance for Drug Endangered Children, I strongly urge you to support this important legislation.

As you have heard from other testimony, Senate Bill 34 is designed to address the growing problem of prescription drug abuse. Many states have put into place a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (see the map on the reverse side of this testimony). Here in Oregon, the Board of Pharmacy has secured a federal grant to implement this evidence-based program, in order to deter the unfortunate practice of doctor shopping and serial prescription filling.

Let me be clear: Senate Bill 34 is **not** designed to be a law enforcement tool. Our drug enforcement resources are already stretched beyond capacity. The last thing we need to be doing is adding to that load. Instead, Senate Bill 34 it is an early intervention tool designed to empower physicians and pharmacists with the information necessary to detect prescription drug abuse, and provide their patients with appropriate care and counsel. In crafting Senate Bill 34, we have intentionally built in provisions that discourage law enforcement use of the program (including not being able to use program information in court). This legislation is simply too important to the health and welfare of Oregon's children to let slip away due to overamplified fears of potential criminal justice use.

Thank you again for providing me with this opportunity to submit testimony. Please support Senate Bill 34, and don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Rob Bovett

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