

PATIENT TALKING POINTS:

You can contact your state representative, your state senator, and the attorney general. To locate the contact information for these people, you can call the state election board at (405) 521-2391, or visit www.okhouse.gov and click on "find my legislator."

The Attorney General for Oklahoma can be reached at: 405-521-3921.

I am writing or calling to voice my concern and opposition to the new opioid law (Senate Bill 1446). I am a chronic pain patient and suffer from _____

I rely on pain medications to help me with my quality of life, increase my activity, while also helping with my pain. My medications allow me to (choose all that apply:)

- continue to work.
- take care of my family, household chores and yard work.
- do other activities like walking, shopping, going to the lake, volunteer work, etc.

Without my pain medications my quality of life would decline as well as my ability to complete daily activities.

Below are some concerns I have about this law (discuss any that apply):

- Since this is a criminal law, I am afraid my doctor will quit prescribing pain medication.
- If my doctor is required to see every patient before every prescription they need on a monthly basis, I am afraid my doctor will be too busy to see me or for me to get an appointment.
- It is already hard to find a doctor who is willing to treat chronic pain and this law is going to make it harder to access medical care.
- If I need to miss work (or take off work to bring a family member into the doctor) every month, then I may lose my job.
- It will be expensive for me to see the doctor every month when you add in gas money, copay expenses and deductibles, and the time I will miss from work.
- I have limited mobility and it is a major effort for me to get out of the house to go to the doctor. My family will need to take off work monthly to take me to my visits.
- I am a single parent with no help with my children and can't take them to all my doctor's appointments.
- I live a long distance from my doctor and riding in the car is very painful for me, not to mention the expense.

I understand there is a problem in our nation and in Oklahoma with people who are addicted, abusing drugs as well as overdosing. In my opinion, this law is treating legitimate patients like myself as common criminals and accusing them of being drug addicts. It doesn't do anything to address the lack of mental health care and addiction treatment options in our state.

I think that my doctor goes to great lengths to minimize any risks to me with using pain medication, while still trying to help me with my pain, and I worry that criminalizing medical care puts all patients in jeopardy.

I am asking you to look at this new law, Senate Bill 1446. Please consider my concerns, talk with the Attorney General, and address changes in the next legislative session.