

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5960

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As Reported by Senate Committee On:  
Health & Long Term Care, January 23, 2024

**Title:** An act relating to prescription labels for medications used for abortion.

**Brief Description:** Concerning prescription labels for medications used for abortion.

**Sponsors:** Senators Frame, Dhingra, Hasegawa, Hunt, Keiser, Kuderer, Lias, Nobles, Salomon, Stanford, Valdez and Wilson, C..

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Health & Long Term Care: 1/16/24, 1/23/24 [DP, DNP].

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Allows a health care provider who has prescribed an abortion medication to request the label for the medication include the prescribing health care provider's national practitioner identification number or the health care facility name, instead of the prescribing health care provider's name.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG TERM CARE

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Cleveland, Chair; Robinson, Vice Chair; Muzzall, Assistant Ranking Member; Conway, Dhingra, Holy, Randall and Van De Wege.

**Minority Report:** Do not pass.

Signed by Senator Padden.

**Staff:** Julie Tran (786-7283)

**Background:** Prescription Drug Container Labels. When a prescription drug is dispensed its container must have a label containing specific information. The information includes

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the name and address of the dispensing pharmacy, the prescription number, the name of the prescribing health care provider, the prescriber's directions for use, the name and strength of the medication, the name of the patient, the date, and the expiration date. A prescribing health care provider may request the name and strength of the medication not be shown.

National Provider Identifiers. National Provider Identifiers (NPIs) are unique identification numbers for health care providers, including both individual health care providers and organization health care providers. The NPIs are used in administrative functions and financial transactions and it provides a single identification number to be used with multiple health plans. The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services operates the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System to assign NPIs to health care providers and maintain information about health care providers with NPIs.

**Summary of Bill:** A health care provider who has prescribed abortion medication may request the label for the medications include the prescribing health care provider's national practitioner identification number or the health care facility name, instead of the prescribing health care provider's name.

The term abortion medications is defined as substances used in the course of medical treatment intended to induce the termination of a pregnancy.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: The bill allows providers to have the option of replacing their names with their identification number or facility when prescribing medication that induces abortion. Medical professionals are trying to do their job. By not including the provider's name, this will help keep providers safe during a time when there is a threat to their livelihood, safety, and well-being and it ensures that providers in the state can feel safe to do so without the concern of being punished for it. The state should bolster abortion provider's privacy and safety.

CON: This bill presents issues for the patient such as who can a patient contact if something happens with their medication. This bill prioritizes anonymity for providers at the expense of the patient. Passing abortion legislation that conflicts with other states to protect providers, it should not be at the patient's expense. If this is about protecting providers, similar protections should be enacted for crisis pregnancy centers.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Senator Noel Frame, Prime Sponsor; Dr. Erin Berry, Planned

Parenthood Greater Northwest; Dr Jennifer Chin, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG); Jenny Arnold, Washington State Pharmacy Association.

CON: Mary Long, Conservative Ladies of Washington.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** No one.