

February 17, 2017

Representative Fred Wood  
Chairman of Health & Welfare Committee  
Idaho House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0038

Dear Representative Wood,

As a health economist with hands-on experience implementing and evaluating healthcare delivery models like that proposed in H 191, I write to you to share my experiences.

My most direct experience is in evaluating models in which medications for influenza and strep throat are made available directly at a pharmacy (with screening procedures and referral mechanisms in place). In one of our pilot studies, among the patients with influenza-like illness who sought care at pharmacies:

- 34.6% of the patients had no primary care physician;
- 38.7% of the patients visited the pharmacy outside of normal physician office hours; and
- Because of strict evidence-based guidelines, only 11% of patients left with an antiviral, and 0% left with an antibiotic.

Thus we found the model to lower overall healthcare costs from avoided emergency room visits, avoided urgent care visits, and even reduced overall volume of prescriptions. Moreover the model was safe, effective, and highly rated by patients in follow-up surveys.

If you have any questions about my research, I would be happy to connect at your convenience ([dklepser@unmc.edu](mailto:dklepser@unmc.edu); 402-559-4927).

Best regards,



Donald G. Klepser, PhD, MBA  
Associate Professor  
Vice Chair of Pharmacy Practice