

# Top Dems voice concerns about gov's opioid pl

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The Legislature's top two Democrats voiced reservations yesterday about a provision in Gov. Charlie Baker's opioid abuse prevention plan that would let doctors commit patients with substance abuse issues for up to 72 hours without a court order.

Though House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo said Baker was able to address his concern in a meeting yesterday about how a proposed 72-hour supply limit on opioids would impact patients with chronic pain, DeLeo said more discussion would be

needed to "ease my mind" about committing patients to a hospital against their will for 72 hours.

DeLeo said Baker explained to him that those with chronic pain would have a "carve-out" from the 72-hour limit on prescription supplies, which would not require those patients to return frequently to their doctors for additional pain medication.

"The other concern I have that I think we can address as well is taking the judge out of the process in terms of whether you commit a

person or don't commit a person, and I think we need to have further discussion about that," DeLeo said.

Senate President Stan Rosenberg said, "We have to be extremely careful about this ... you have to find the right balance point here. We want to save lives and we know people are in very rough shape in many of these situations, but we have to be really careful that we don't deny them their liberties."

The Baker administration has defended its proposal to allow doctors to commit pa-

tients for treatment v a court order as miu similar laws that all involuntary commi of patients with health issues that pre "immediate threat" to selves or others.

— STATE HOUSE NEWS

**DRUG FIGHT: Gov. Cl Baker, right, propos opioid abuse preven plan that would allo tors to commit pati for up to 72 hours w a court order.**

STAFF FILE  
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