SB 179

Dear Sen. Sara Gelser, and members of the committee,

My name is Amara Moon, I am a person who lived with serious illness that has and does impact my life greatly. I am someone who would benefit from palliative care. I am also on medicaid and determined disabled by my conditions. I am writing in support of Senate Bill 179. I have some concerns however I would like to briefly mention.

The state of Oregon is in a crisis regarding the chronically ill ie no cures and how these people are being treated. The Oregon Health Authority interjects terms such as “life threatening” “life limiting” “expected to progress to dying” in regards to palliative care. Adding in restrictive terms such as these not only causes seriously ill patients denied access to palliative care services and protections, it adds to an ever revolving state of confusion state wide about palliative care.

I support SB 179 for the stance it takes on outreach and advancing education into the community. I am however concerned with any language used that indicates a patients illness does not warrant palliative care simply on it not progressing to dying in 12 months. I support the definition in the established SB 608 as it stands, where it does not mention an illness must be life threatening.

I support the removal of any mention of the words “life limiting” “expected to progress to dying” and “life threatening” "6 or 12 months to live".

I support efforts in SB 179 that include protections, expansions and allowances for continuity of pain care. I support efforts of the senate, council and committee that focus on patients access to palliative care and expanding education state wide.

I employ the committee to align the Oregon Health Authority’s more restrictive palliative care definitions with what is stated in our senate bill 608. That access to palliative care is a right to all Oregonians who need these services and protections.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter,
Sincerely,

Amara Moon
Portland, Oregon