

**Fatuma Hassan Oral Testimony in support of SB 698: Story of my patient: “medications should heal, not kill”**

Chair Monnes Anderson, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and members of the committee. Thank you for allowing me to testify today in support of Senate Bill 698, the SMART bill.

My name is Fatuma Hassan and I am a nursing student at Oregon Health and Science University in Portland. I am here today as an independent citizen to strongly urge your vote in support of this bill.

Here is a photo of I-CAN patients, MO. and G. MO and G. are refugees from Democratic Republic of Congo, now living in Portland. G. speaks very little English, MO. speaks no English. I have gotten to know them thru my weekly home visits as part of my community health clinical rotation. They were not able to come to Salem today and they asked that I share their story with the hope that it will help other Oregonians.

MO has several complex diagnoses. She is prescribed many medications and has many pill bottles, none of which she or her husband can read. She is hugely motivated to manage her chronic conditions, but is never confident that she can accurately remember which medication is which.

I ask you to imagine what it is like to come home with a bag full of pill bottles you cannot read and be expected to just remember which pill is which and how many to take. We have discovered several dangerous medication errors and believe that some of M.s suffering and ED and clinic visits may be related.

Mo told me,

"I have so many medications. I don't know what is for what. They just give it to me and when I get home I put it in a bag and I take them all. I don't know what for. When I have a problem, they give me another medication. I can't read what it is for and I don't know how to take them, it's confusing. Medicine is supposed to make you better and heal you, but it can also kill you when you don't know how to take it or what you are taking".

Please vote to approve SB 698 so we can protect the health of these vulnerable patients.

Thank you again to the members of the committee for allowing me to speak here today.