

To: House Health Care Committee
From: Brad Collins-DHS employee
RE: House Bill 3075

Chair Salinas, Vice Chairs Hayden & Nosse, members of the committee,

My name is Brad Collins and I work for DHS with the Office of Developmental Disability Services. I am a Regional Employment Specialist covering the Mid-Valley Area (Lane County to Marion County). My wife works for DHS with the Self Sufficiency Program in Eugene. Both my wife and I have worked for DHS for over 12 years and are pleased to be of service to our community. Currently we are able to access double health insurance coverage but with SB 1067 going into effect in 2020 this will no longer be an option which will have an adverse impact on our family.

My wife and I have made a conscious choice to work in State Service for Oregon. This is because of the drive we have to contribute to our community and have a positive impact on people through the work we do. We have also chosen State Service due to the security it brings us as a family through our employment, and the benefits we receive such as stable health insurance.

I am a person who experiences a physical disability (paraplegic) and use a wheelchair to access my community and do my job. When making a decision on employment to pursue, one of my criteria was to have stable and sufficient health insurance. This was a major factor in how I structured my educational pursuits so I could be in position to go into State Service. Through my employment with the State, and the benefits it has afforded me, I have been able to maintain my employment along with my health. Stopping to allow my wife and I to have coordinated spousal coverage (double coverage) could have an impact on this.

For example, as a result of my disability I have monthly medical supplies that that allow me to manage basic personal care needs such as using the restroom. With the elimination of double coverage, my family will see an increased out of pocket cost just related to these medical supplies. In a conservative estimate, we will see an increase cost to our family of \$150.00 per month (\$1,800.00 per year). This increased cost does not include regular medical appointments that allow me to manage my disability and my health. By being diligent with my health, and accessing my doctor regularly throughout the year, allows me to keep working and not missing work due to disability related health issues. As a result of needing regular doctor check-ins, my family and I will see an increased out of pocket cost since we will no longer be able to access double coverage based on SB 1067. We may have to make decisions on when and how often to utilize our doctors and seek medical care due to the increased cost we will experience.

I feel the work I do is important. I am helping other who experience a disability to access employment related services so they are able to have access to employment and their communities. I want to keep having this positive impact and am concerned that with SB 1067 and the elimination of the option of double health insurance coverage will impact my ability to do this. In line with the DHS mission I want to keep helping "Oregonians in their own communities achieve wellbeing and independence through opportunities that protect, empower, respect choice and preserve dignity." My job with DHS and the benefits offered has allowed me to have these securities. Reinstating the option for double health insurance coverage for a family in which spouses both work in public service will allow me to keep doing the work I do and have the security and stability in my life through this work.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important topic.

Brad Collins
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Regional Employment Specialist for the Mid-Valley Area