

Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson
Chair, Senate Committee on Health Care
State Capitol, Room 453
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Monnes Anderson:

My name is Robyn Shanti. I live in Portland – Sen. Fagan's district - and really wish that I could be in the hearing room with you today but I am dialyzing at my clinic now and the logistics did not work out for me to be there or even phone in testimony.

I get help from the American Kidney Fund. I wanted to share my story and urge you all to vote **NO on Senate Bill 900.**

In July 2007 I had a freak accident. I tripped and fell down some stairs and ended up with a hematoma on my knee. A month later I started feeling ill and went to the doctor. My hematoma had become infected and that infection spread to my kidneys. It was at this point, that my doctor informed me my kidneys had failed and I was immediately put on dialysis.

Life as a dialysis patient is very hard but I was able to continue working. Eventually, dialysis took a toll on me - physically and mentally – and after 5 years, I could not continue with my job. I applied for Disability and today I am on Medicare.

With charitable premium assistance, my Medicare premium is paid for. All I pay for are the co-pays when I see my doctor or for my medications.

Without the American Kidney Fund and the help they provided to me, I don't know what I would have done. I am now able to pay my bills, and my keep my housing. Without CPA, I would most certainly be homeless.

I read the letter from the American Kidney Fund opposing this bill. They said if this bill passes, they won't be able to operate in Oregon. Here's a quote from their letter:

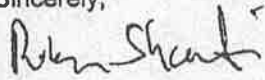
- o "If enacted, it will quickly force us to stop helping low-income dialysis and transplant patients in Oregon, no matter what kind of insurance they have – Medicare or private."

That scares me, and I'm sure a whole lot of patients as well. The way I see it, SB 900 appears to help insurance companies but hurts patients like me. If this bill passes, dialysis patients in Oregon will be losers.

I don't understand why the supporters of this bill would want to jeopardize the welfare of patients. This charity allows me the ability to afford my housing, pay my bills and look after my health... which is fragile at best.

I hope you all oppose this bill. It's wrong. **Please vote NO on SB 900.**

Sincerely,



Robyn Shanti

