

Thank you Chair Prusak,  
Co-Chairs Salinas  
Co-Chair Hayden &  
Health Care Committee Members

For the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2390

My name is Trenda Dominquez, I'm the single mother to a 17 yr old black son with SEVERE PANDAS who was prescribed IVIG and denied by our Providence insurance plan. We are a Lane County working class family, and I am unable to afford to pay privately for the treatment he desperately needs.

My boy literally went from the sweet, athletic, play in the mud, stay outside with his friends until I called him in-to a scared and sometimes raging child who couldn't get out of the car to go to school because he was crippled by anxiety and OCD. He's in special education. He's had endless doctor visits, at least 10 trips to ER, countless calls to CAHOOTS, a mobile crisis intervention, 2 stays at Kartini Clinic, an impatient eating disorder clinic, totaling 83 days, because of his PANDAS induced severe eating restrictions and inability to drink liquids. By severe, I mean that my boy cannot drink liquids because of his texture sensitivity. The only way to keep him alive is by peeling and slicing 2 oranges every morning. If he gets dizzy, I can sometimes get him to eat 2-4 more oranges. And the most terrifying of all, my only son has attempted suicide because of the distress of this disorder. I can't lose my son to suicide because we are unable to access medical care that his treating physicians recommended. I can't lose my son because Oregon insurers stand in the way of the care he desperately needs.

My son qualified for and has been on social security disability for 2 years now. As a black young man, he already sits at a serious disadvantage in our medical system! According to the Annals of Neurology (2018) "The prevalence of autoimmune encephalitis (AE) is almost three time higher in African-Americans than Caucasians". PANDAS is a form of AE. It is inhumane to allow insurance companies to withhold proper treatment.

We are simply the have-nots. My son lost his childhood based solely on not being able to afford the medical treatment that could have given his life back. You now have the opportunity to ensure he and other Oregon children can get the treatment they desperately need by voting in support of HB 2390. 8 other states have passed this legislation to ensure children in their state can access this life saving care. Aren't Oregon children worth this chance? Isn't my boy worth this chance? You have the opportunity to ensure his life matters. Please don't let my boy become another statistic.

With Gratitude,  
Trenda