

Good afternoon, Chair Rachel Prusak and Committee members,

My name is Megan Miller. I am from Polk County and I am asking for your support for HB2390.

When I was 10, I got sick suddenly. I couldn't do things that a normal little girl should be able to. As I entered middle school, I ran into obstacles with public school. I had to leave school and finish off my sixth grade year online. I spent the next two years home schooling. I wasn't living the life a normal girl should. I was seeing a therapist who told my parents it sounded like I had PANDAS/PANS. We managed to find a specialist in California, and we found out that I did have PANS. I took multiple medications, along with homeopathic things. I remember taking around 22 pills in a single day. It was awful having to hear my parents fighting with insurance companies just to get their daughter help. It isn't fun seeing all the stress and sadness you have caused others, even though it's not your fault. I remember being told one day that we were going to fly to California the next day. I had never been on a plane before, but we flew to California to meet the specialist, Dr. Amy Joy Smith. She has helped us so much, and has always been so kind. I needed an IVIG treatment, but they were thousands of dollars. My family has always had everything we needed and more, but we didn't have thousands of dollars for treatment on our own. Fortunately, the Lord blessed us with many family and friends willing to help. Later on, we drove back to California, and I had my first IVIG treatment. I was hooked up to an IV for hours, until they unhooked me and we could leave the building. The next day, I continued treatment for hours, and finally, after finishing the treatment, we could go back home to Oregon. After the treatment I had many headaches. It hurt to be in the light, so the way home was a struggle. I was also sick afterwards with a fever and vomiting which lasted a few days. Unfortunately, although the first treatment helped, it was not quite enough. Once again, we didn't have thousands of dollars for a treatment. But, again people were willing to help us. The second treatment went much smoother than the first. I had little to no side effects. After that second treatment, I continued to improve. In time, I was able to get off almost all of my medications. Now instead of taking over twenty pills a day, I take a few supplements and one medication. Because of the IVIG treatments, along with medications, I have been able to recover greatly. I am again independent, happy, and mostly healthy. Now in 10th grade, I am back in public school, even though it is online for us at the time. God blessed us with many people willing to help, but many people may not be as fortunate. For people having to watch their children suffer because of something as simple as money, this bill will make a tremendous difference. HB2390 will help families in Oregon get help for their children. For me, these treatments have helped get me back to normal life. For kids who are having their childhood ripped away from them, these treatments can help them feel normal again. Children should be able to feel like they are blessings to their families, not burdens. I hope that you will help us pass this bill to help children and their families who are going through such suffering.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my story.