



**National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society**

February 2, 2022

House Committee on Health Care
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, Oregon

RE: Support for HB 4083 & HB 4052

Chair Prusak, Vice Chairs Hayden & Salinas, committee members,

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society would like to offer the following comments in support of House Bill 4083 regarding primary care and House Bill 4052 linguistic mobile health.

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system that disrupts the flow of information within the brain, and between the brain and body. Symptoms vary from person to person and range from numbness and tingling, to walking difficulties, fatigue, dizziness, pain, depression, blindness, and paralysis. The progress, severity, and specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted but advances in research and treatment are leading to better understanding and moving us closer to a world free of MS. Nearly 1 million people in the United States are currently living with MS with the highest concentrations here in the Pacific Northwest.

The Society's vision is a world free of MS and our mission is that we will cure MS while empowering people affected by MS to live their best lives. Our advocacy around expanding access to comprehensive, affordable health care is based largely on the Society's [Access to High Quality Healthcare Principles](#) (Principles). We believe that these Principles are realized when people with MS:

- Are at the center of their healthcare decision making,
- Have access to and receive high quality MS care regardless of their race, ethnicity, cultural background, socioeconomic status, sex, gender, sexual orientation, level of disability, age, geographic location, language, and care setting that is culturally relevant, accounts for treatment and care preferences and differences in identity.
- Have access to a comprehensive network of providers and healthcare services focused on producing the best outcomes at affordable costs,
- Have access to comprehensive health insurance plans with affordable premiums, deductibles, and other out-of-pocket costs



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- Are able to see healthcare providers who have greater awareness, resources, and tools to enable the timely diagnosis, treatment and symptom management of MS, and
- Have access to high-quality long-term supports and services in settings that best meet their needs and prevent financial hardship for the individual and their family.

A full overview of our principles is available on the [Society's website](#), and it is through this lens that we will evaluate any policy proposal put forth to assess its impact on healthcare needs for people affected by MS.

House Bill 4083 would expand access to primary care visits before deductibles and other payments and cost sharing. Widely popularized research has demonstrated that even small copays and cost sharing can disincentivize people from seeking care. Primary care professionals are on the front line to recognize signs and symptoms of MS and to take appropriate actions to facilitate prompt diagnosis and treatment. They are in a position to help recognize and manage relapses, promote adherence, and coordinate care with specialists.

House Bill 4052 would benefit your constituents by providing mobile pilot outreach mobile health units focusing on culturally and linguistically sensitive care in priority populations. This outreach benefits all Oregonians by raising the overall level of health in the state, and very importantly, outreaches to our communities most overlooked or hardest to contact.

We thank the committee for its consideration and urge passage of these bills.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Seth M. Greiner'. The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a large loop at the end.

Seth M. Greiner
Senior Manager, Advocacy
Washington State & Oregon
Email: Seth.Greiner@NMSS.org