

COURTNEY NERON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 26



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony in Support of SB 420

January 24, 2023

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice Chair Robinson, and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services,

During my time in the classroom, I saw how traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) can have significant impacts on a student's ability to do daily tasks independently, participate and engage with their family and friends. TBIs can impact anxiety, attention span, endurance, and fatigue, which in turn impact someone's ability to complete school, stay employed and even have confidence in stable housing.

As a legislator, constituents have shared their stories of how brain injuries changed their lives. Whether a car accident, sports injury, domestic violence, a simple fall, or service at war, countless Oregonians are living with these invisible injuries and our state lacks a coordinated response.

Recently, a senior constituent who has been navigating the impacts of her jet ski accident throughout her entire adult life shared with me that if it were not for the generosity of a family member out of state, she wouldn't be able to afford rent and would be at high risk for becoming unhoused. This constituent, and many others, would benefit from a state brain injury coordinator to help her to know about and navigate any resources available.

While some people with traumatic brain injuries will have life-long health impacts ranging from physical difficulties to cognitive and mental distress¹ I also want to highlight that early detection, coordinated treatment, and targeted services can result in better patient outcomes and change life trajectories.

Oregon has an opportunity with [SB 420](#) to catch up to other states by instituting a Resource Navigation Program that would expand and streamline wraparound services, access to resources and life-saving care for individuals with traumatic brain injuries statewide. Additionally, the bill would create a critically needed advisory council tasked with identifying unmet needs and gaps in services.

¹ <https://www.brain-injury-law-center.com/blog/what-happens-when-tbi-goes-untreated/>

This is a proactive approach that builds our statewide safety net support to catch individuals when they are at their most vulnerable. Thank you for your consideration. I urge your support for SB 420.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Neron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Representative Courtney Neron

House District 26

Wilsonville, including the Charbonneau district, King City, Sherwood,
Tigard/Bull Mountain, and Parrett Mountain