

Submitter: Jason Kroening Roche

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2927

Dear House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care,

I am a family medicine physician at Oregon Health & Science University and I support HB 2927.

I care for a patient with sickle cell disease who's life has been completely and forever changed by their disease. They spend more time in the hospital (where I also care for them) than they do at home. They are currently houseless, having being evicted while admitted into the hospital. They were recently re-admitted with pneumonia after living in their car. And they lack support from other people in their life, largely related to their isolation from the rest of the world because of their sickle cell disease and pain crises. They are Black and have been the victim of discrimination and racial bias from the health care system their entire life.

I am most interested in the social support and information services part of this bill. My patient, like so many, needs full wrap-around care and services, due to their disease/disability. The fact that they are living in her car and have spent significant time in the hospital related to housing concerns (money that could have been much better used by OHP to house them and others, were funding more flexible) demonstrates one of many major issues in our system.

My hope is that this bill can help us provide better care for these very vulnerable, and often traumatized, people.

Sincerely,
Jason Kroening-Roche, MD MPH
Assistant Professor
OHSU