

Submitter: Adam Zarrin  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure: SB972

Good afternoon, Chair and members of the Committee.

I am Adam Zarrin, the Director of State Government Affairs for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society® (LLS) is a global leader in the fight against cancer. The LLS mission: Cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease, and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. LLS funds lifesaving blood cancer research around the world, provides free information and support services, and is the voice for all blood cancer patients seeking access to quality, affordable, coordinated care.

On behalf of blood cancer patients and their families, we testify in support of Senate Bill 972, relating to the health insurance exchange.

State-based exchanges reduce costs and improve access to high-quality coverage, ultimately improving patient health outcomes.

Affordable and robust healthcare plans are critical to blood cancer patients.

For states with state-based exchanges, the American Rescue Plan has created new savings for patients. Those states have seen average out-of-pocket premiums reduced by \$100 monthly (or \$1,200 annually). Idaho saw average premiums reduced by \$300 monthly, and Colorado had \$400 monthly reductions.

This has led to more patient enrollment; it has meant enrolling in a higher-level plan for some.

A state-based exchange will allow Oregon to take steps to meet the unique needs of consumers and patients in the state.

Finally, a state-based marketplace will be an essential tool to ensure the proper implementation of the Bridge Health Plan. Together, they can help the state to continue towards universal coverage.

Again, we thank the sponsors and appreciate the Committee's time and consideration of this critical patient concern.

And urge your support of Senate Bill 972.

Thank you.