

Submitter: Martin Bomalaski
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Co-Chairs Steiner and Sanchez
Members of the Ways and Means Committee

My name is Dr. Martin 'Nick' Bomalaski MD:

I am writing as a physician specializing in traumatic brain injury (TBI) to support SB 420, a bill currently awaiting budget approval in the Ways and Means Committee. This bill would meet a critical but now unmet need for brain injury survivors. I understand that state resources are limited but I urge you to find the funds to support brain injury resource navigation this session. Passage of SB 420 will help survivors achieve their full potential for independence and quality of life. Without this assistance many will end up as long-term dependents on much more expensive state programs and services.

To my knowledge, I am the only fellowship trained Brain Injury Medicine Psychiatrist in the Portland Metro Area. I currently oversee the Inpatient Rehabilitation program at the Peace Health Southwest Medical Center in Vancouver, WA, and have previously worked in Eugene and Portland. I still often see patients that reside in Oregon. I also serve on the Board of the Brain Injury Alliance of Oregon. I have treated many hundreds of patients recovering from brain injuries and seen first-hand how patients and their families struggle after discharge from the hospital. Services are limited and fragmented and navigating this system can feel impossible. Many simply do not have the cognitive capacity to find the supports that will optimize their recovery. SB 420 would fill a critical gap by providing centralized statewide Resource Navigation. Funding this bill is essential in order to fulfill our societal and moral obligations to this vulnerable population.

Sincerely,
Martin Bomalaski MD
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