



February 7, 2024

Honorable Kathleen Taylor
Senate Committee on Labor and Business
900 Court St NE, H-283
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Senate Bill 1595, Relating to Protections from Debt Collection - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Taylor and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of those living with or in remission from blood cancer, we encourage you to support Senate Bill 1595 (SB 1595), the Family Financial Protection Act of Oregon. SB 1595 offers a practical route for families to recover from unforeseen financial challenges, avoiding the risk of being pushed deeper into a cycle of debt and poverty.

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.

Patients feel trapped by medical debt. According to a recent [national survey](#), nearly 7 in 10 U.S. adults say they receive medical bills they cannot afford. Many are forced to delay paying the bill, put it on a credit card, or challenge the bill. 74% of those with past or present medical debt have experienced negative impacts as a result. More than 4 in 10 delayed medical care because they did not want to go further into debt. And 32% of Americans say they became more depressed and anxious due to their medical debt.

SB 1595 will provide critical patient protection. Such as:

- By 2027, the amount exempted from wage garnishment will increase to the value of Oregon's standard minimum wage per week and be adjusted annually to keep up with inflation.
- Prevent debt collectors from wiping out someone's entire bank account. Instead, protecting the first \$2,500 ensures that Oregonians can meet their basic needs while paying off debt.
- Increases the value of a home that a debtor can protect from seizure to \$150,000 for an individual and \$300,000 for a couple.

There is strong bipartisan support for action to protect consumers from medical debt and high healthcare costs. We thank you in advance for your consideration and urge your support of SB 1595.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adam C Zarrin".

Adam Zarrin
Director, State Government Affairs