

Submitter: Kathy Ottele

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB4071

Currently in the health care system in Oregon, there are many barriers that prevent a person from not only being evaluated for a problem, but having to wait too long for testing, test results, treatment, and evaluations. Lack of certified staff is one of the largest barriers. Oregon has a history of caring about a person's health and the Oregon Health Plan is a positive part of that process. A healthy life often depends on receiving good health care in a timely manner.

I am a 6-time skin cancer survivor. I have lost four family members to four different types of cancer. Without early, expedient exam, testing, & treatment, a person does not stand a good chance of surviving cancer. It is of great concern when I hear family and friends mention that their procedure was rescheduled due to the lack of an anesthesiologist. It is frustrating to hear that test results cannot be communicated timely in order to start treatment due to lack of staff.

We can do better...we can make it easier to allow health professionals the opportunity to 'do their job' and care for patients. Thank you for your time and consideration.