

Submitter: Danielle Erb

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB4139

Dear Chair Nosse and members of the Committee,

As a Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation physician sub-specializing in brain injury rehabilitation for 34 years, I know there is a need for acute inpatient rehabilitation facilities. Due to the lack of inpatient Rehabilitation facilities, many of my patients were either sent out of state or to long term care facilities. Rehabilitation services in long term care facilities are not equal to those in an accredited inpatient Rehabilitation facility.

Also, many patients with a traumatic brain need some form of mental health support, but this is close to impossible to obtain in Oregon. In the 2022 Mental Health America report, Oregon ranked 48th in high prevalence of adults with mental illness and low rate of access to care. Approving more outpatient mental health services would certainly be helpful.

Treatment of Oregonians who have suffered a brain injury has been my life's work and this issue must be addressed. Should the committee choose to form a work group to continue working on this issue, I would be pleased to participate and share the perspective that I've gained from over 30 years of work with the brain injury community.

Thank you for your time and consideration on HB4139.

Sincerely,

Dr. Danielle Erb

Brain Rehabilitation Medicine