

Submitter: Jacek Haciał PsyD

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: SB1508

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair Goodwin, Vice-Chair Nelson, and Committee members,

I am writing in support of SB 1508-A.

In my administrative history, I have experienced repetitive system misuse of services data, one type being the over-application of quantitative macro-level data to inform health policy, economics, and services decisions. The use of QALY is one such misuse when deciding which health services will be funded.

QALY ultimately determines which services will be funded by focusing on population-level length of life and quality of life factors. When considering only the economics of health services, these data can misinform decisions about which services to fund.

QALY does not account for the impact on vulnerable groups in the ranking and allocation of services process. The use of QALY data inserts a severe bias diminishing the importance of many citizens and the severity/uniqueness of their needs. It tips the balance of factors considered in favor of population-level cost savings while losing sight of the goal for such a prioritization --- making needed health services cost-effective AND accessible to those in need.

Please pass SB 1508-A to help eliminate bias. Oregon needs to use a comprehensively informed perspective for making health services available equitably for all Oregon citizens.

Thank you.

Jacek (Jack) Haciał, PsyD, Director
DynamicChanges LLC
Salem, Oregon