

Submitter: Lou Sinniger
On Behalf Of: HCAO Lane County Chapter
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3221

Thank you House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee Members for taking on this task to increase access and understanding of our complex medical system. Your proposal to define and standardize Urgent Care clinics will help our community in need of unexpected but non-emergent healthcare. It hopefully will take some stress off of the hospital acute care emergency rooms. As you know Oregon has one of the longest emergency wait times in America. This comes none too soon. As my Lane County healthcare services has been damaged over the last year.

My friend was caring for a horse two months ago. The horse stepped on her foot, resulting in a broken big toe with a bloody toenail. This happened in the middle of the day. She went to an Urgent Care Clinic near her only to be told they didn't have an X-ray available and could not help her and sent her to another Urgent Care Clinic. Upon arriving at the 2nd Urgent Care Clinic that had an X-ray, the specialist was in training but after getting assistance did accomplish the X-ray. The providers said yes your Big Toe is broken and directed her to make an appointment for the next day with the Orthopedic PA at another Urgent Care Clinic to receive the boot. So it took 2days and 3 Urgent Care Clinics for my friend to receive the care she needed.

As an aside, she said that she did not go to an emergency hospital because of the 8 hour or more expected wait time.

This story alone represents the need to establish standards, like the level Medical care providers available at each Urgent Care Clinic. The bill should establish the minimal level of acute care available for all Urgent Care Clinics.

Also, I believe it is important to establish transparency of ownership, so the public can be informed of the ultimate responsible body.

Thank you so much for your work. I support the HB 3221.

Lou Sinniger
HCAO Lane County Chapter