



OregonConsumerLeague

February 12, 2025

Senate Committee on Healthcare  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Support for SB 822**

Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Consumer League, I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 822. We believe that SB 822 is a crucial step toward strengthening network adequacy protections for Oregonians enrolled in commercial health insurance plans, ensuring that everyone has timely access to high-quality healthcare.

For over 58 years, the Oregon Consumer League has worked to protect Oregonians' rights through education, policy development and advocacy. Our mission includes advancing pro-consumer legislation on the state and national level and defending against policies that harm Oregon consumers.

Health insurance and healthcare access are critical to the lives of Oregon consumers. We support SB 822 for the following key reasons:

**Expanding Protections:**

SB 822 extends network adequacy requirements to large group health insurance plans, ensuring that a broader segment of Oregonians benefits from reliable in-network care.

- **Establishing Clear Standards:**

The bill directs the Department of Consumer and Business Services to develop measurable benchmarks for:

- **Geographic Access:** Ensuring that providers are conveniently located near enrollees' homes and workplaces.
- **Provider-to-Patient Ratios:** Guaranteeing that there are enough providers to meet the needs of all enrollees.

- **Appointment Wait Times:** Defining acceptable limits on the waiting period between requesting and receiving care.
- **Enhancing Cultural Competency:**  
SB 822 mandates that provider networks be culturally and linguistically appropriate, which is especially important for historically underserved communities, including individuals from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds, LGBTQ+ individuals, and people with disabilities.
- **Integrating Telemedicine:**  
The bill allows telemedicine to count toward network adequacy standards, providing a practical solution for improving access to care—particularly in rural and underserved areas.

We urge your support for SB 822. We believe that these measures will significantly improve the accessibility and quality of healthcare in our state. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and your service to Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

Michelle Druce  
Executive Director  
Oregon Consumer League