

Senate Committee on Health Care  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 822

Dear Chair Senator Patterson, Vice-Chair Senator Hayden, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Association of Acupuncturists, I write in strong support of SB 822, which seeks to improve regulatory oversight of network adequacy in private health insurance plans. This bill represents an essential step toward ensuring that all Oregonians, regardless of their insurance provider, have meaningful access to the healthcare they need.

Currently, the lack of adherence to network adequacy requirements poses a significant barrier to care. While existing regulations are intended to guarantee that patients have timely and reasonable access to medical services, enforcement has often fallen short. Too many Oregonians face long wait times, travel burdens, and outright denials of care due to inadequate provider networks. These barriers not only impact patients but also place undue strain on healthcare professionals, including licensed acupuncturists, who are integral to a comprehensive, patient-centered healthcare system.

We believe SB 822 will give the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) better tools to regulate private insurers and address these deficiencies. However, we also urge the legislature to ensure that DCBS takes a more proactive stance in enforcing existing laws. Rules and regulations are only as effective as their enforcement, and without meaningful accountability, patients will continue to struggle with access to care. We encourage additional measures that strengthen oversight and enforcement mechanisms to prevent insurers from circumventing their obligations.

In the field of acupuncture and other complementary medicine, patients often face significant challenges in obtaining coverage and finding in-network providers. Ensuring network adequacy is not just about compliance; it is about upholding the fundamental right of every Oregonian to receive timely and appropriate healthcare. SB 822 is a step in the right direction, and we urge your support for its passage.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions and look forward to working with you to improve healthcare access in Oregon.

Respectfully,

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