

**Testimony Submitted by
Angela Donley, Policy Analyst
Oregon Consumer Justice
To the Senate Committee on Healthcare**

February 13, 2025

Regarding: Support for SB 822

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

For the record, my name is Angela Donley. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Oregon Consumer Justice in support of SB 822.

Oregon Consumer Justice (OCJ) envisions a vibrant future where all Oregonians live with dignity and abundance and experience health, joy, and economic opportunity. We work collaboratively across policy and advocacy, community engagement, and the law, to realize a more just and equitable Oregon where people come first. For too long, flawed systems and policies have stood in the way of this reality, with communities of color most often experiencing significant harm. Informed by consumer insights, OCJ works to make financial and business transactions reliably safe and supports Oregonians in knowing and exercising their consumer rights.

Consumers deserve access to quality, culturally appropriate health care that is readily available within their communities.

In Oregon, an estimated 97% of consumers have health care coverage¹. It is laudable that a historic number of people have access to health care in our state. Now, our system must grow and evolve to meet demand.

In communities statewide, consumers face many barriers to accessing adequate health care. In rural communities, access to healthcare providers is limited, if available at all, requiring individuals to travel long distances to receive needed health-related

¹ Bacher, Amy. [Oregon Health Authority News Release](#). Sept. 26, 2024

services. While those from immigrant communities and communities of color, contend with cultural and language barriers when seeking care. SB 822 is a step in the right direction.

We encourage your support of SB 822 to begin to fill system gaps by requiring access to culturally competent health care providers, establishing clear standards for geographic access and provider-to-patient ratios, as well as wait times. This change will expand the in-network providers across communities to meet the needs of Oregonians.

Thank you for your consideration and your service in building the future that Oregonians deserve.