

Submitter: Grant Lucas

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2685

I'd like to submit my support for House Bill 2685, requiring the Oregon Health Authority to supply information for screening for cytomegalovirus. I'm a father of two girls, including my youngest, Riley, who was born with CMV in 2019 and is deaf and hard of hearing. We love everything about Riley, from her extroversion to her creativity to her positive outlook on life. And while we are not ashamed or regretful for her diagnosis and subsequent hearing loss, there is little doubt in my mind that we wish there was better and more proper screening for CMV, especially considering how much the virus can impact children and their families, not only affecting hearing but also vision and neurodevelopment. There has been little information available on CMV as Riley has gotten older, oftentimes with my wife educating doctors, audiologists and other professionals on the disease. By requiring the state to provide educational materials, those professionals can educate themselves as well as families on what to expect and how to adapt. Perhaps, even, how to treat the disease. CMV has long been shrugged off, but we cannot do so any longer.