

Submitter: Hayley Palmer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB942

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 942, which seeks to ensure that health benefit plans provide coverage for disabled children over the age of 26 under certain circumstances. As a registered nurse, disability advocate, and a mother of a child with disabilities, I have witnessed firsthand the significant challenges that families face when their dependent children with disabilities age out of traditional insurance coverage.

This bill is critical for families who care for adult children with disabilities, as it ensures continued access to necessary medical, behavioral, and dental care. Many individuals with developmental disabilities, rare diseases, or severe mental illnesses are unable to engage in self-sustaining employment due to their conditions. Without this coverage, these individuals face the risk of losing access to essential treatments, leading to significant health declines and increased financial burdens on their families.

By allowing parents to continue insuring their disabled adult children, SB 942 addresses a crucial gap in the healthcare system. It promotes health equity, financial stability for families, and improved health outcomes for some of Oregon's most vulnerable residents. The inclusion of provisions defining disability and self-sustaining employment ensures that this policy is applied fairly and appropriately to those who genuinely need it.

I urge you and your colleagues to support the passage of SB 942 and help protect the health and well-being of Oregon's disabled adult population. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.