

Submitter: Jennifer Hoyt
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 disability advocate, and a mother of a child with significant disabilities, I am terrified of my daughter not having private medical coverage with the uncertainty and volatility of Medicaid.

In my daughter's short eight years of life, she has had about a thousand medical appointments, a dozen ambulance rides, a half a dozen hospital stays, and another dozen surgeries/sedated procedures. This doesn't account for her monthly enteral (feeding tube), incontinence, and medical supplies or DME/wheelchair. I do not anticipate her care to decrease when she turns 26...

I prefer to keep Medicaid as secondary insurance due to restrictions on providers, denials, and overall system complexity. Please allow me the freedom to continue to pay for a private primary insurance for her after she ages out of the current limits.

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.

Thank you very much,
Jennifer Hoyt