

Submitter: WENDY BOND  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3421

Dear Chairman Nosse, Vice-Chairs Javadi and Nelson, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Wendy Bond and I live in Lake Oswego. I SUPPORT HB 3421, a bill that requires insurance coverage for biomarker testing.

For more than half my life, Alzheimer's and other dementias have taken my family. At nearly 70 years old, I have lost my grandmother, mother, aunt and uncle to this disease. At present, my sister and cousin are living with this disease. Yes, I am afraid to know who is next.

This bill HB 3421 needs your support. It will require insurance coverage for biomarker testing.

With a historic Food & Drug Administration (FDA) approval of treatments that slow the progression of the disease, early detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's are even more critical to ensure individuals receive the most benefit at the earliest point possible.

True, there have been recent advancements in science, including a combined blood test for cognitive decline that has shown a 90% accuracy rate in determining whether memory loss is due to Alzheimer's disease. While these results are very encouraging for the future, there is currently no single test that can determine if a person is living with Alzheimer's or another dementia, and the journey to receive a dementia diagnosis is often long and arduous, robbing precious time with family members. Current biomarker testing can speed diagnosis by an average of two years.

I do my part, I have been an advocate for Alzheimer's for 15 years. I volunteer, teach classes and offer caregiver support groups. I have had a walk team for the past 35 years. I will not give up and continue to be dedicated to find an end to Alzheimer's.

Thank you for your attention to this important bill, and I appreciate your support on this issue.

Wendy Bond

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