

March 21, 2025

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

My name is Erik Simshauser, and I'm a constituent living in West Linn.

I am an ambassador and volunteer serving the Alzheimer's Association of Oregon and Southwest Washington, but I also advocate independently. In both capacities, **I ask that you support HB 3421, a bill that requires insurance coverage for biomarker testing.**

In 2019, my mother, a retired teacher, was diagnosed with dementia "most probably" linked to Alzheimer's. Over the intervening years, I have assumed guardianship for my mom, gained control of her finances, coordinated her care while also communicating broadly with her network composed of extended family members and long-time friends. And when not completely immersed in administrative activities, I've also sought to deal with the emotion of watching my mother, my biggest supporter and my best friend, fight her losing battle with this disease. That's why your support for this bill is so personal to me.

Today, more than 80,000 Oregonians are living with Alzheimer's Disease, but as many as half have not been formally diagnosed. An early and accurate diagnosis has been shown to improve access to care and support services, enhance quality of life, and reduce the corresponding financial impact of the disease.

**This bill, HB 3421, mandates that insurance cover biomarker testing when it is medically indicated, consistent with clinical practice guidelines, and provided in a manner that limits the need for multiple biopsies or specimen samples.** In other words, when it is clinically appropriate and managed in a financially responsible fashion. This bill is structured to be good for patients and cost-effective for Oregon.

**By supporting HB 3421, you will be helping to drive continued progress around blood-based amyloid biomarkers**—which, in turn, will likely lead to new diagnostic tools for those charged with treating Alzheimer's and renewed hope for patients and their caregivers.

Thank you for time, consideration, and support for HB 3421.

Regards,

Erik Simshauser  
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