

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

My name is Susan Unfred-Hays. I live in Oregon City. I SUPPORT House Bill 3421.

Early detection of Alzheimer's is very important to me. I was a Senior Attorney General for Oregon DOJ and worked on child abuse and neglect cases for almost 25 years. When my supervisors became concerned with my work, I was forgetting to do minor tasks, I sought help from my general practitioner. Originally it was thought that my memory issues were caused by stress, depression and anxiety related to my job. This started 14 months of constant doctors' appointments, therapy, scans, and testing. Finally, after seeking a second opinion from a new neurologist, which included a spinal tap, we got the answer we did not want: Alzheimer's. I was 55 years old.

This was November of 2018 so there were only a few drugs available for Alzheimer's that had minimal impact on the disease. Now two FDA approved drugs, Lecanemab and Donanemab, are available to remove amyloid and slow the spread of the disease. I was OHSU's first non study patient for Lecanemab and started treatment in July of 2023 and had my last treatment in January of 2025.

Please approve this bill requiring insurance to cover biomarker testing to detect Alzheimer's so others don't have struggle like I did to get a diagnosis. This will allow others to receive one of the new drugs early and have a more time for science to find the cure.

Thank you for hearing this important bill, and please support it.

Susan K Unfred-Hays