

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

My name is Christie Hill, and I live in Grants Pass. I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3421, which requires insurance coverage for biomarker testing.

My family's experience with Alzheimer's disease began in 2009 when my father, Dan McLean, was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's at the age of 50. Like many families facing this devastating illness, we struggled with delays in receiving an accurate diagnosis and accessing appropriate care through OHSU and local healthcare providers. My father deeply loved his family and our Grants Pass community, always showing compassion and care to everyone he encountered. We did our best to support him as his health deteriorated, but we ultimately lost him to Alzheimer's in 2016 at just 57 years old. Today, we advocate on behalf of others who are battling Alzheimer's and their dedicated caregivers.

HB 3421 is critically important because:

- Over 80,000 Oregonians currently live with Alzheimer's disease, yet nearly half remain undiagnosed. Early and accurate diagnosis significantly enhances access to care and support services, improves quality of life, and reduces financial burdens associated with the disease.
- With recent FDA approvals of treatments capable of slowing Alzheimer's progression, early detection and diagnosis have become more crucial than ever. Prompt diagnosis ensures patients receive the maximum benefit from these groundbreaking treatments as early as possible.
- Recent scientific advancements, such as combined blood tests for cognitive decline, have demonstrated up to 90% accuracy in identifying Alzheimer's-related memory loss. While promising, current diagnostic processes remain lengthy and challenging, delaying essential care. Current biomarker testing can expedite diagnosis by an average of two years.

Thank you for considering this essential legislation. I urge you to support HB 3421 and help improve the lives of countless Oregonians impacted by Alzheimer's disease.

Sincerely,

Christie Hill