

Submitter: Lauren Choplin  
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 Lauren Choplin. I live in Portland, Oregon. I'm writing to express why I support HB 3421, a bill that requires insurance coverage for biomarker testing.

In 2023, my mom passed away from lung cancer. She also had Alzheimer's disease with primary progressive aphasia. Both the cancer and the Alzheimer's progressed incredibly quickly, and my mom didn't understand she had lung cancer when she died or understand she was dying. And we didn't realize she had lung cancer until she fell, paramedics took her to the hospital as a precaution, and a scan incidentally picked up lesions on her lung, throat, and brain. She died a month later.

My family struggled the whole way through. It felt like we never caught up to what was happening to my mom and never had a chance to plan ahead. We had no support, and we were learning as we went. It was all chaos and sadness, run through with all the love we could give her and anything we could think of that would help her feel calm and safe.

I support this bill because of how much I love my mom and because I want to help create a future where no one suffers as she and my family did. It took many months, including a skeptical primary care doctor and trips to specialists that were deeply stressful to my mom, to get her a formal diagnosis. We actually received the Alzheimer's diagnosis two days after the metastatic lung cancer diagnosis. By then, it was too late.

Had we had the Alzheimer's diagnosis earlier, my family would have had more time to emotionally accept what was happening, learn more about the disease, and create a plan, possibly even with my mom's involvement and possibly including treatment to try to slow the progression of the disease. We all would have had more time with my mom. Good time. More love, and less turmoil and fear.

In short, this bill would have helped my family had it been law then, and I know it can help others if it is passed.

In Oregon today, more than 80,000 people have Alzheimer's disease right now. A staggering half of these people aren't formally diagnosed. It's true that a diagnosis

doesn't mean a cure, not yet at least. But an early and accurate diagnosis of Alzheimer's can improve access to care and support services, enhance quality of life, and reduce the financial impact of the disease. My family should have had all of that. Other families still can.

Thank you for having a hearing on this important bill. I hope you'll support it.