

Oregon State Senate  
Salem OR

**RE: Support for Oregon Senate Bill 716**

Dear Senator,

I am writing to support Senate Bill 716, in support of adopting rules for defining and registering urgent cares and the subsequent adjustments to insurance payments.

In urgent care we see a wide variety of illness and injury, and our ability to diagnose and treat effectively is essential in keeping our patients out of the emergency departments and our communities healthy. The ability for urgent cares to run diagnostic labs and have onsite radiology services allows us to provide the highest standard of care and see our patients through to the end of their needs. Without these facilities, patients would still end up in the emergency departments.

However, these facilities come with serious financial burdens. While necessary, the financial dedication to operation, maintenance, and staffing is significant, and results in barriers that could be mitigated with the proposed registration and higher reimbursement.

Having these services in urgent care also presents patients and insurance with savings up to 80% of the costs of the same diagnosis codes in the emergency department. These savings encourage the use of urgent cares and provide reliable alternatives to patients and communities. By adopting the definitions and registration of urgent care facilities with advanced lab and radiology, and providing increased insurance reimbursement, the urgent cares who provide these services can continue to provide these necessary services while still being a more cost effective alternative to the emergency department.

I strongly encourage you to pass Senate Bill 716 in support of defining urgent care, and raising reimbursement to match the costs of providing these advanced services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tom Koch', written over the printed name.

Dr. Tom Koch, MD

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