

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.

As an urgent care provider, I see daily the significant impact that having onsite lab and radiology has to our patients and our ability to diagnose and treat in a truly immediate manner. However, these capabilities come with extensive costs, including running costs, maintenance, and staffing. At urgent care we never know what will come through the door, and we must maintain these services in expectation of a full and busy day of patient care. The benefit to our patients and community is so great that we feel these lengths are essential to our practice, but the financial restraints can prove limiting.

Urgent care facilities serve as a middle ground between primary care and emergency departments, and having a full array of services available allows us to live up to that full potential of keeping patients out of the emergency rooms. Having full ability to diagnose and treat a wide range of episodic illness and injury is only possible with these advanced services. Thus, urgent cares who commit to providing these advanced services deserve recognition for their significant contributions to keeping patients out of the emergency department.

The commitment to patient care, and keeping intermediary services available as an alternative to primary care and emergency departments, is only sustainable with clear guidelines and recognition of the elevated costs it takes to provide these services.

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 'T. Penner', written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Thomas Penner, MD

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