

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 recognize the position of my colleagues and myself as an intermediate step between primary care providers and emergency departments. We are an essential step in keeping patients out of the busy emergency departments, and thus allowing emergency services to be available for true emergency needs. Our responsibilities in urgent care span from diagnosing flu and strep to sutures to identifying and setting fractures. These services are essential for any facility who intends to keep these injuries and illnesses out of emergency departments, but are only possible with onsite lab and radiology abilities. These advanced labs and x-rays, while essential, demonstrate significant financial burdens.

With the passage of SB 716, the increased reimbursement to registered urgent cares would allow these facilities to continue a high standard of care and encourage them to survive and thrive, thus keeping pressure off of primary and emergency care. It also would hugely benefit underserved communities whose emergency departments are unable to keep up with demand and whose shortage of primary care providers places huge burdens on the patient populations. Urgent cares in these communities are even more important, and the ability to run advanced lab and radiology services is essential. Increased reimbursement would allow these services and communities to thrive.

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 cursive script, appearing to read "m. miller".

Dr. Maria Miller, MD

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