

Oregon State Senate
Salem OR

RE: Support for Oregon Senate Bill 716

Dear Senator,

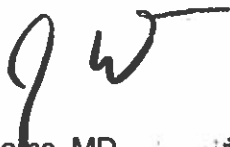
I am writing to support Senate Bill 716, in support of adopting rules for defining and registering urgent cares and the subsequent adjustments to insurance payments.

Urgent care centers provide valuable services in the medical ecosystem, acting as "emergency room lite" for patients who need immediate attention but do not need to be seen in the emergency room. From diagnosing flu and strep throat to imaging and setting fractures, urgent cares are most effective when they provide a full range of onsite lab and radiology services, and those that do should be recognized and rewarded for the advanced services they provide.

Urgent cares are a strong partner in the medical community, especially in rural and underserved communities. The shortage of primary care providers throughout the state is a separate issue, but the reality of the situation is that patients are not able to get in to see their primary care providers on short notice and the emergency departments are overwhelmed with patients. Urgent care provides an alternative, and is most effective in serving those overwhelmed communities when they can diagnose and treat patients fully, which includes onsite lab and radiology services. It is thus essential that these services are supported with proper insurance reimbursement rates that reflect the costs associated with providing these services to our communities.

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 'JW' with a stylized flourish.

Dr. Jeffery Williams, MD

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