

Submitter: Stephanie Patterson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB293

SB 293-1 addresses critical gaps in care by requiring ODOC to:

- Treat pre-existing conditions, ensuring that AICs do not lose access to essential care upon incarceration.
- Make medical decisions based on need, not on the length of an Adult in Custody's remaining sentence.
- Document specific reasons for denied medical care, creating accountability in the system.
- Provide access to essential prescription medications in line with national standards.

These are not radical demands. They are the bare minimum for a humane and responsible correctional healthcare system.

Adults in custody may suffer unnecessarily if they continue to be denied access to medical/dental care. This can cause undue mental stress, physical pain, and conditions which could lead to potential altercations that put other AICs and corrections officers at risk.

A conversation is also needed about providing timely and effective mental health care for AICs--particularly those diagnosed with severe disorders that require active regular monitoring by a mental health professional and regular access to medication.