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On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB293

I have come to understand the unique health challenges faced by adults in custody and the several factors that create them, including the punitive staff culture, limited access to healthcare, poor nutrition, lack of physical activity, and an overall harsh living environment. In addition, incarcerated individuals often come from marginalized backgrounds, and they enter the system with pre-existing health conditions that can worsen due to inadequate medical care and unhealthy prison conditions.

I support the changes this bill promotes to improve healthcare for incarcerated Oregonians:

1. Guarantees care for pre-existing conditions. This guarantee is necessary because at present ODOC can refuse to treat health issues that began prior to incarceration.
2. When making treatment decisions, ends consideration of the remaining time left in custody. At present, people can be refused care if they don't have much time left to serve.
3. Requires documentation of specific reasons for denying care in patients' medical records. At present, this is not consistently happening.
4. Provides - at a minimum - access to prescriptions listed on the formulary adopted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as of June 1 this year. The formulary currently used is badly outdated.