

Submitter:

Kristy Lanciotti

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB293

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and members of the committee, my name is Kristy Lanciotti, RN, MN, CPN, and I urge you to support SB 293-1. As a registered nurse in Oregon, I support this bill because I have seen firsthand the impact of inadequate healthcare on individual incarcerated persons as well as the overall societal burdens. I am currently a full-time faculty member at Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) and I teach in the undergraduate nursing course Population Health Practice. Through my work with students engaged with the currently and formerly incarcerated population, I have gotten to know and witnessed individuals whose lack of proactive, adequate health care for chronic and acute health conditions has significantly impacted their ability to effectively reintegrate into society and get their lives back on track. It is not only unethical, but also expensive in the long term not to give incarcerated individuals the same basic quality of healthcare available to everyone else.

SB 293-1 is a necessary step to ensure that the Department of Corrections meets basic healthcare standards—treating pre-existing conditions, documenting treatment denials, ensuring care is not withheld based on release date, and maintaining an up-to-date formulary. These are fundamental expectations for any healthcare system, and DOC should be no different. I urge you to support SB 293-1 to improve continuity of care and protect the health and dignity of incarcerated individuals.