

Submitter: Tyler Pickle
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 Tyler Pickle and I urge you to support SB 293-1. I support this bill because DOC needs to be accountable for providing the same quality of care available to everyone else. As a Behavioral Health Consultant I work closely with people who are re-accessing the medical care system after incarceration and too often hear stories of people re-entering the community at a severely disadvantaged state due to lack of access to care while incarcerated and lack of support for care planning in preparation for discharge.

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.