

Submitter:

Sonia Sosa

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 Sonia Sosa and I urge you to support SB 293-1. As a primary care physician I support this bill because I have directly seen the impact of poor patient care for imprisoned patients. Approximately 10 years ago I cared for a patient who was quadriplegic and had a cervical complication. We had spent months working on getting this patient appropriate care with a surgeon expert in this specific complication, then he was imprisoned. He did actually get the surgery while in prison but it was done by a local surgeon rather than the expert and the results unfortunately were years of complications which I

Do believe could have been avoided. These complications lead to his eventual death and this case will live with me forever. People who are in prison deserve the same quality of care available to everyone else. They deserve this in a timely fashion and they deserve it to be known if this is not happening.

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.

Thank you

Sonia Sosa, MD