

### **Testimony in Support of HB 2940-1**

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair Nelson, Vice-Chair Javadi, and Members of the Committee,

My name Dr. Jane-Frances Akpamgbo, I am a Family Physician at Kaiser Permanente's Center for Black Health and the President- Elect for the Oregon Academy of Family Physicians. I am in support of House Bill 2940-1 as a physician, a volunteer for Sickel Cell Foundation of Oregon, and as someone who has lost family due to mistreatment of Sickel Cell Disease.

My beloved younger brother passed away in 2022 from complications of Sickel Cell Anemia. While he was in the hospital in another state, I had to be in the phone with his doctors to give input on his care. I believe that with better care, he would be here today. The average life expectancy for patients with sickle cell is 52.6 years and my brother would have been 51 this year. We are finding that patients with good care are living up to their 60s and 70s. We need to have better care for these patients and emergency rooms are one of the most critical access points for this care. Every emergency department should have protocols for quickly treating patients in sickle cell crisis. These protocols should include quick intakes, pain management and admittance to the hematological ward.

I support HB 2940-1 as amended because it will make it possible to use existing technology to have Sickel Cell patient's individual protocols shared with the medical staff in the emergency department. This is important because when a patient is in sickle cell crisis, they may not be able to communicate their needs and each sickle cell patient has different pain thresholds, requiring different levels of pain relief. Having individual protocols and dosages available to the medical staff in the emergency department can lead to better outcomes for these patients.

I urge your support of House Bill 2940-1 so that the Oregon Health Authority can bring together stakeholders to develop a system for better communications in emergency departments for patients in sickle cell crisis. We need to make ALL Oregon hospitals a safe place for these vulnerable patients.

Thank you,



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