

Submitter: Alexandra Himes-Ferris  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1570

Hello and thank you for representing us.

I'm a physical therapist and a cancer survivor. I worked in home health for Providence Elderplace in 2020. I STRONGLY support protecting access to healthcare for all Oregonians.

During the pandemic, I witnessed people dying alone, decreased access to care for many people (myself included), and a generally heightened level of anxiety that definitely affected patient care. Because we are humans, healthcare has certain licensing and federal protections (HIPAA and Oregon Board of Physical Therapists among them). In any healthcare situation there is inherently a power differential: institutions dictate what providers can do. Patients are at the bottom of that hierarchy. Please help maintain patient confidentiality and respect. Please support the rights of immigrants to receive life supporting healthcare. We've learned from the pandemic that healthcare saves lives, if we all are supported in accessing good care. Thanks for your consideration.

Alexandra Himes-Ferris, DPT