

**ELIZABETH STEINER HAYWARD MD**  
**STATE SENATOR**



**OREGON STATE SENATE**  
**DISTRICT 17**

Testimony on SB 122  
Before the Senate Committee on Health Care and Human Services  
February 12, 2013

Dear Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to present remarks on Senate Bill 122. This bill would establish a mechanism to ensure that health insurance coverage offered in this state is consistent with the principles of evidence-based medicine.

In medicine, there are often many different options for treating a particular condition. As a family physician, I am often called upon to work with my patients to come up with a course of action by choosing from those different options. Optimally, I prefer options that have strong evidence to support them. Certainly, the ultimate decision has a lot to do with the individual patient's preferences and circumstances. However, we also look at objective scientifically generated evidence to help guide treatment decisions.

On the macro level, these same types of evidence can be used to help inform decisions about designing health insurance coverage. As we continue to work to reduce health care costs and improves out comes, it is critical that we figure out how to incorporate the use of evidence-based medicine into the system.

Senate Bill 122 proposes one way to accomplish that goal. Whether this is truly the best approach and how this proposal fits with the health care transformations already underway are still open questions. I believe, however, that the idea behind the bill is certainly something we should be discussing. I look at this bill as a way to start having discussions about incorporating the principles of evidence based medicine into insurance coverage design.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

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