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Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson
District 25: Gresham, Troutdale, Fairview, Wood Village

House Committee on Health Care
Chair Greenlick, Vice-Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice-Chair Thompson
Representatives Weidner, Harker, Lively, Kennemer, Clem, and Conger
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 621 – Support
May 3, 2013

Chair Greenlick and members of the committee,

I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 621. The purpose of this bill is to make sure that decisions made by the Health Evidence Review Commission are made fairly, with the help of the information and expertise of experts.

As it stands in rule, the Health Evidence Review Commission appoints temporary members when they feel, or an interested party feels, that the commission can benefit from the information of an expert when they are considering a particular new technology. SB 621 would simply put this rule into statute.

SB 621 goes an important step further, however, allowing that temporary member to have a vote on the commission, but *only* with regard to the technology that they were asked to provide expertise on. This practice works very well for the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee and the language for this bill came straight from their committee statute.

The Health Evidence Review Commission makes major decisions that affect many organizations and affect the health of many Oregonians. It has the potential to make tremendous impacts, and I believe that we must ensure that the Commission's decisions are being made with the extensive information and taking into consideration the knowledge of experts. This bill will help make sure that is how decisions are being made.

I urge your aye vote.
Sincerely,

Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson
District 25, Gresham, Fairview, Troutdale, and Wood Village