

To: House Committee on Health Care
From: Laurie Trieger
Date: February 25, 2015
Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2758

Chair Greenlick and Members of the House Healthcare Committee:

As the parent of two adults, ages 24 and 28 years old, I know that growing up – and raising children – can be fraught with challenges.

Through the years we've had many difficult conversations in our house, on topics ranging from school- and work-related stress to relationships and communication styles, to more generalized "my body and mind are changing fast and life is confusing" talks. I am also quite certain there were many things we did not discuss. And that's OK. What would not be OK with me is if one of my children ever unnecessarily delayed or went without needed medical attention.

Whether someone is struggling with their weight and body image, has questions about sexuality and contraception, or is concerned about a lump or a rash they want to have examined, we must remove barriers to them receiving the required and desired care. Public health is threatened when Oregonians delay or forgo seeking services simply because of concerns that information will be shared in a manner or at a time that doesn't meet their individual needs.

Our son was on our insurance through his four years in college and remained on our policy until about a year ago, when he was eligible to receive full medical and dental benefits through his own employer. Even after he had moved out and was living in another state, I was receiving EOBs for his care. This was an unnecessary breach of his confidentiality. My children's right to privacy in their medical treatment outweighs my desire to know about details of insurance claims.

From the moment that primary policyholders enroll in an insurance program – whether parent, spouse or other – they already understand and agree that another household or family member may seek healthcare services under the policy. I firmly believe, however, that the details regarding the nature of those healthcare services should be made available only to the patient, not the policyholder.

Without legally protected assurances of privacy, health insurance becomes a benefit you can't use. No one should feel impeded in their path to accessing needed care because of the looming concern – or even outright threat – hanging over them that another individual will be privy to confidential medical information.

Thank you for your careful consideration, and for your support, of HB2758.

Sincerely,

Laurie Trieger
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