

Dear Chairman Greenlick,

Caring Ambassadors is Oregon's leading health organization addressing the problem of hepatitis C and lung cancer. Thanks to recent breakthroughs, there are many who can now receive effective treatment for both of these illnesses. Many of our hepatitis C patients are over the age of 50, and the CDC notes "more than 75% of adults infected are baby boomers, people born from 1945 through 1965." In addition, thirty (30%) percent of newly diagnosed lung cancer patients are between the age of 64-74. Nearly 160,000 lives are lost annually from lung cancer. In 2015, 2,090 Oregonians will lose their life to the disease.

For that reason, we ask you to support passage of HB 3200, which would prohibit age discrimination when providing coverage for medical care. Allowing public or private insurance carriers to discriminate based on age would leave many who suffer from hepatitis C or lung cancer with few options. It would put insurance coverage directly at odds with the CDC's guidelines encouraging people born after 1945 to get tested for hepatitis C. It is also at odds with the new recommendation for screening for lung cancer.

There are many debates about providing appropriate, cost-effective coverage in health care, but age discrimination is simply not a responsible or humane approach to health care.

Thank you.

Lorren Sandt

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Executive Director

Caring Ambassadors Program, Inc.

PO Box 1748

Oregon City, OR 97045

Phone: 503-632-9032 Direct Line: 503-632-9030

FAX: 503-632-9038