

Dear Chairman Greenlick and Oregon Health Care Committee,

I am a mother of three children, two who deal with Type 1 Diabetes and Celiac disease on a daily basis. These two children with special medical needs are students at Gilchrist School in Gilchrist Oregon.

Our family has been Oregon residence for most of our lives. Recently a tremendous job opportunity took our family out of state. My husband, an Oregon State graduate and professional chemical engineer took a job in Maryland for about a year and a half.

We missed Oregon and decided to move the family back to Oregon while he continued employment in Maryland. We moved in September at the start of school. We arrived with medical records and school orders from John Hopkins University Diabetes clinic in Maryland.

We were surprised that orders from the children's physical were not acceptable because they were "out of state". Since the move, we no longer had established care in Oregon, and it would take 90 days to establish care with a specialist. Current law puts the school and school nurse in quite a bind. Sports, field trips and day to day activities all require school orders for kids with special medical needs.

Transitioning to a new school is tough enough – then add the "left out" because of a paperwork detail and it adds stress to families. We were able to get reestablished in patients with our former clinic – but the process took 90 days. In the meantime, we had to ask a general physician to sign orders. She was not a specialist and was not comfortable doing so – but understood the dilemma.

It did not seem like a "safe" choice. Giving a longer grace period for in state orders will benefit children, schools and not put unnecessary pressure on doctors to make decisions for patients whom they are not familiar.

Thank you for considering lengthening the number of days families have to establish care with in-state doctors. Children with special health issues battle enough day to day issues – paperwork doesn't need to be one of them.

Thank you

Jodi Kerr

Gilchrist, Oregon