

June 8, 2015

Chairpersons and members of the committee:

For the record, my name is Lois A. Fitzpatrick and I reside at 2335 S. Columbia, Seaside. I am the State Lead Advocate for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. I am also a 20 year breast cancer survivor. I am here today to ask you to please support SB 608. This bill creates an interdisciplinary advisory council to look at palliative care issues in the state.

This bill is supported by many different organizations and groups throughout the state including insurers, hospitals and patient advocacy groups. Palliative care will assist not only cancer patients and their families, but also anyone who lives with a chronic disease. Palliative care is given alongside curative care and is given regardless of the age of the patients. ACS Cancer Action Network has worked with the Oregon Health Authority to reduce the fiscal impact of this bill. \$53,000 is a small amount of money that will impact many Oregonians and their families as they begin their health journey.

I can tell you that I wish Palliative Care had been around as I began my cancer journey 20 years ago. Not only was I scared, my husband and two young daughters ages 9 and 14 were also scared. My oldest daughter became withdrawn and sullen. The youngest daughter's 3rd grade teacher would call me to see if I had just had a

chemotherapy treatment because my daughter was acting out in class. This daughter did have more problems as she entered her teenage years. I am happy to say that both are doing fine now.

I am convinced that if there had been a palliative care team, we would have been all better off. I would have had better support as I went through surgery, chemo and radiation. My family would have had people to consistently support them.

Please support SB 608.

Thank you.

---