

# Caring Ambassadors Program, Inc.

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Senate Committee on Health Care  
Public Testimony of Caring Ambassadors Program  
In Favor of SB 272 and Dash 1 Amendment

The Caring Ambassadors Program (CAP) is a national, nonprofit, advocacy organization based in Oregon City, Oregon. We are in favor of Senate Bill 272 and the Dash 1 Amendment, relating to insurance coverage of prescription drugs.

SB 272 provides transparency for all Oregonians when purchasing one of the most important items in their life, their health insurance. As an employer in Oregon that pays 100% of the premium for my employees, transparency is critical. We need to know that we are purchasing the appropriate insurance for our employees.

Caring Ambassadors focuses on people with chronic or life-threatening diseases and specialize in lung cancer and hepatitis C. I receive weekly calls from people living with hepatitis C on the Oregon health plan that are being denied treatment. Some of these are outside of the P & T guidelines but many are not, they are people living with an infectious disease and advanced fibrosis or cirrhosis being denied care. This changes from CCO to CCO and without regard for medical necessity. We also hear from people paying for private insurance that the condition may be covered but the drugs are only for a select few.

The Dash 1 Amendment is important to protect from insurers raising out-of-pocket costs on certain drugs or removing previously covered prescription drugs from plan coverage. This “non-medical switching” is done without regard for patient safety or the efficacy of their current treatment.

Non-medical switching has a profound effect on patients – particularly those with lung cancer. Lung cancer patients have enough challenges in receiving the best care, we don’t need another obstacle preventing them from receiving life changing medications such as personalized medicine. Any disruption in treatment can put a patient’s health at risk. Non-medical switching can not only trigger adverse reactions and side effects; it can also cause patients to no longer respond to therapy.

SB 272 provides straightforward transparency which is good for all Oregonians. Would you purchase a car without knowing the cost or what type of fuel it required to run?

Please pass this important legislation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Executive Director

[www.CaringAmbassadors.org](http://www.CaringAmbassadors.org)

The Caring Ambassadors Program, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public charity.