

March 8, 2017

To: Senate Committee on Health Care and Chair Monne-Anderson

From: Athena Bubenik-Hartley

Re: Bill 857 - Relating to provisional license to practice medicine; prescribing an effective date - In Support

Chairs & Committee Members:

I support Senate Bill 857.

As a lower-middle-class Portlander who has been frequently uninsured, I have often experienced the stresses that go along with a lack of access to affordable health care. When your options for fast, affordable care are limited and the few free or sliding-scale clinics in town have hours-long waits it's difficult to get access to the health care you need. I went for years without even getting a check-up. It is even harder to find cheap, accessible health care in rural areas. In the social security law firm I worked in, I frequently spoke with clients who would tell me how hard it was to find a ride to the hospital, how often the major healthcare provider in their area wouldn't accept their insurance, how it would take months to schedule an appointment with a specialist. Sometimes, the care my clients needed was very basic.

It just doesn't make sense to have competent M.D.s out in the world who aren't able to provide services to people who so desperately need them. Senate bill 857 would be an elegant solution to a very simple problem.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.