



March 14, 2017

Via Email - hbl.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

The Honorable Paul Holvey, Chair
& Honorable Members of the Committee
Committee on Business and Labor
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: House Bill 2858 – **SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Holvey and Members:

The Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) submits this letter in support of House Bill 2858, a bill that would establish transparent and efficient procedures for the insurance commissioner to use in adjudicating consumer requests for restitution or enforcement of the Insurance Code.

CARD is the world's largest organization treating autism spectrum disorder using the principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA) and the nation's third largest non-governmental organization contributing to autism research. CARD provides services at over 100 locations throughout the United States, including six locations in Oregon, and at international locations in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, employing a workforce of over 2,000 dedicated professionals.

Historically, families affected by autism have struggled to access the services and supports they need. When children with autism do not have access to medically necessary treatment, the cost to the state has been estimated at \$3.2 million per capita. When children *do* have access to medically necessary treatment, they require less support from the public school and are often able to live independently as adults. When consumers encounter challenges in accessing medically necessary benefits, Oregon has no laws or administrative rules governing the complaints and enforcement process. HB 2858 would give consumers a private right of action when their complaint is left unresolved after one year. We believe this bill will incentivize insurers to authorize medically necessary treatment, potentially resulting in a substantial savings to Oregon when children with autism are given the resources they need to fulfill their potential and grow up into independent, taxpaying adults.

Thank you for identifying and advancing this important issue. Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at J.Kornack@centerforautism.com.

Sincerely,

Julie Kornack
Director of Public Policy
(818) 345-2345, extension 1070