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 one in four  
chronic health

a voice for patients  
1-in-4.org

February 19, 2018

Chair Monnes Anderson,  
Members  
Senate Committee on Health Care  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support of HJR 203

Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of One in Four Chronic Health, I am here to offer support for HJR 203, the HOPE Amendment.

Our organization was founded in 2013, with the mission to work for access to affordable health care for all people living with chronic health conditions. Because many of the conditions we advocate for are often preventable, (and manageable) with treatment, it is critical for patients to have access to affordable care.

While we do support the intention and statement as outlined in HJR 203, we have concerns about the implementation, definitions of terms; "cost-effective", "medically appropriate", and "affordable". We do believe that access to affordable health should be a right of citizens under of the State, both the State of Oregon and as people living in these United States.

We are cautious however when we look at the application of the health care programs currently managed by the State of Oregon, specifically the Oregon Health Plan, our Medicaid program. In far too many recent instances OHP patients who have required treatment and medication which was nationally recognized as the medical and/or clinical standard of care were denied the necessary treatment. We have seen this with the treatment of people living with Viral Hepatitis C, Autism, access to medications to treat mental health conditions to name a few.

Let me be clear: we support health care as a fundamental right for every person in Oregon. However, we have concerns about the application of this care and how we will continue to provide and improve care for all people, including those who depend on costly treatment to remain healthy and productive members of our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this issue.

Regards,



BJ Cavnor  
Executive Director