

Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson

Chair, Senate Committee on Health Care

State Capitol, Room 453

Salem, OR 97301

Senator Monnes Anderson:

My name is Jeff Fifield and I wanted to take a minute to tell you and members of the Senate Health Care Committee about concerns I have with SB 900.

I worked for 20+ years at the same job. During those years I paid the premium for my insurance policy. In December I got laid off and I have been on COBRA since then. You see, I need to keep my insurance because I am an End State Renal Patient – I have kidney failure. My health care is complicated. I have specialists due to comorbidities associated with my kidney failure. I have been seeing these specialists for three years. Most recently, I am recovering from a stroke.

My COBRA runs out this month and I will be moving to a Kaiser Senior Advantage plan. I will be responsible for out of pocket charges but because I am no longer working, I really can't afford to do that at the moment. Unemployment gives me just enough for basic living expenses and my housing – I do not quite qualify for Medicaid. I am stuck in the middle. This is where the AKF's Charitable Premium Assistance helps out. With their help I have peace of mind that I can continue to do the things necessary to keep myself stable.

As I understand it, SB 900 will jeopardize AKF's ability to continue to offer assistance to people like me. I urge you to vote NO on SB 900.

Again, my health care is complicated. I can't afford to not continue with my current doctors, appointments, prescription drug coverage and dialysis without AKF's lifeline of Charitable Premium Assistance.

Jeff Fifield

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