



Chair Monnes Anderson and members of the committee, my name is Carol Slavkovsky. I'm a proud member of SEIU local 49 and I live in Shaw, OR. I'm here today to talk to about my experience of doing dialysis for 6 years of my life.

Let me first say that no one can prepare you for the fear and uncertainty you experience when one of your vital organs is failing. Even those that have gone through it, each experience is different. My dialysis treatments first started in August of 2010. I had healthcare insurance through my work and I qualified for medicare. I chose to do at home dialysis. The cost was approximately \$12-15,000 a month. Between my two insurances all of it was covered. I'm also a phlebotomist (I draw peoples blood) I see several patients that are just starting dialysis and I see how frightened they are. Every patient I've seen whether at work or at the dialysis center, their main concern is themselves. They are questioning: How am I going to work? How am I going to cook for myself? How am I going to adjust my fluid intake? For me, at the time, it was "how am I going to date?" To add on financial stress to people that have to drastically change their lives is horrendous. I can't even imagine if I was dropped by my work or by Medicare in the middle of the year.

My story here, should be everyone's story. I was able to work, get my dialysis, and eventually my two kidney transplants. I encourage all of you to join me in supporting and voting YES on Senate Bill 900.

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