

**Co-Chair Beyer, Co-Chair McKeown, and members of the committee:**

My name is Elizabeth Miles and I'm here to offer testimony in support of the Yellow Dot program.

One of my daughters, Cheyenne, has Addison's Disease, as well as Types 1 and 2 diabetes. Her adrenal glands no longer produce the hormones she needs to survive, and she takes a baseline replacement dose every day. In a situation such as even a minor illness or auto accident, the daily dose is insufficient. For my daughter and others with adrenal insufficiency, these can quickly become life-threatening situations that require an additional stress dose.

Adrenal insufficiency is such a rare disease that, in our experience, few EMS providers or doctors are familiar with emergency protocols for treating it when a crisis occurs. As a result, my daughter has almost died on several occasions. Her doctor warned her that, if she goes into shock after something as simple as a fender bender, she will need a stress dose of adrenal hormone replacement to save her life. The window of time during which she must have the hormones is small. Once she is in adrenal insufficiency shock, she cannot advocate for herself or explain what she needs, and the Yellow Dot information would help prevent a delay in getting life-saving medication.

Cheyenne wears an emergency alert bracelet and, as of this date, medical providers have not noticed it. She continues to wear the bracelet, but it only provides a fraction of the information needed to save her life. A Yellow Dot information sheet allows enough room for an explanation of the emergency medical protocol that she needs.

I heard about the Yellow Dot program in an adrenal insufficiency newsletter. I contacted several states that have the program, including Georgia, Kentucky, Utah, New York, Alabama and Tennessee. In my communications with them, I asked if there had been concerns regarding HIPAA or the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Responding states reported that these concerns had not arisen because the Yellow Dot on the back windshield gives consent for first responders to get medical information from the glove box, and the person who chooses to participate in the program chooses what medical information is disclosed.

What I did hear is that the Yellow Dot program saves lives. My daughter is precious to me, and I am an advocate for this life-saving program because it could save her life and the lives of others who have invisible disabilities -- medical conditions that are not apparent but that are life-threatening in a crisis.

I also consider Yellow Dot to be a win-win program for EMS providers, other first responders, and emergency department staff who work to save lives -- sometimes without all the information they need. Invisible medical conditions pose a huge problem in unconscious patients who cannot speak or explain or advocate for themselves. The Yellow Dot paperwork provides that information after an accident.

Please support HB 2915 and help bring this life-saving program to Oregon. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

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