

My name is Lisa Custer and I am a Native American born and raised in the great state of Oregon. Six years ago, I was struck down and "crashed without any prior symptoms, suffered complete Renal failure. I found myself at St. Vincent's at 3am in ICU. My story is like so many other kidney patients.

My work experience spanned for 33 years in the financial industry in Seattle, Washington. I found myself without income for 2 yrs. and had to sell off assets and lived off savings. My claim for social security was rejected but I went through 2 appeals and after the third time I won and finally was receiving a monthly income.

The reason and purpose I am writing you is to address Oregon Senate HB 4114 and why you must VOTE NO and reject this bill entirely.

Thousands of Oregonians living with End Renal Disease who requires treatments in order to live. This bill would not only be a burden, but rather a detriment to our health and would result in death in many cases.

The level of quality of care would be compromised by imposing artificially low limits on what health insurance companies are required to pay dialysis facilities. The actual cost of providing care are not accounted for.

Dialysis Providers will be forced to cut back on services they offer patient and staff.

Our rural areas who are already are underserved would close. Then the patient would be faced with even more of an arduous journey in travelling to get life-saving treatments.

Purchasing new equipment to meet the never-ending demands for a growing population would be non-existent.

Funding transplant initiatives would cease, many of our population are desperate to live a " normal" life will have no hope if this bill is passed.

Social Services would be cut and a large portion of our population are older, handicapped, mentally, physically, and medically challenged. These folks are the most vulnerable and virtually have no voice because they are so sick.

The dedicated medical professionals that we need to survive would have a difficult task of hiring and retaining good people.

Kidney Disease crosses all walks life. It crosses all social, racial, economic and religious barriers. No one is immune to this disease, one day it could happen. To you or a loved one. One out of seven have this disease and don't know it.

I plead on behalf of all the kidney patients in the State of Oregon VOTE NO on HB 4114. This is flawed for so many reasons and is not a step in the right direction for the patient, but rather several steps backwards in the wrong direction.

Do the right thing VOTE NO on HB 4114.

Thank you for your time,
Lisa Custer
Oregon Rep.
ESRD- Patient Advisory Council
Network 16