

Chairperson Patterson, Co-chair Knopp, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Justine Brink and I am writing today in support of SB 560. I am a Neurologist who specializes in the treatment of individuals with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). Currently I work for Providence St. Vincent in Portland, OR, which is the largest MS Center in the Pacific Northwest which treats over 3000 patients annually. MS is a chronic, progressive demyelinating disease of the brain and spinal cord for which there is no cure.

Medications that can prevent deterioration due to MS are among some of the most expensive drugs in the world costing anywhere from \$60k - \$150k per year. As a result, copay assistance programs are often the only way patients can afford these life altering treatments. But the expenses do not stop there. I have witnessed first-hand how the direct and indirect effects of this disease destabilize the lives of my patients not only medically, but socially and financially. They pay for ER visits, MRI studies, and countless doctor visits to manage the multitude of issues they encounter, and that is before they even begin paying for treatments.

I implore you to support this bill so that people with MS are not further crushed by the weight of medical debt, and our medical system is able to adequately support the most vulnerable people in our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely
Justine Brink DO MPH