

Submitter: Danielle Erb

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure: SB420

Chair Gelser-Blouin and members of the committee, my name is Dr. Danielle Erb and I am a physician specializing in the treatment of patients who have suffered a traumatic brain injury (TBI). I urge you to pass SB420.

During my practice of over 30 years, it has been extremely clear to me that patients struggle trying to find appropriate health care providers and resources. SB 420 will help get patients to the right providers sooner, thereby resulting in better outcomes with less dependence on health care and social systems.

Many of my patients found me only after 2-5 years of searching, during which time they were referred around the system as no one was coordinating their care. A delayed recovery from brain injury equates to a less than optimal outcome, as the window for significant improvement after a TBI is generally 12 months. Patients can still improve after this time, but their progress is slower and less complete.

Every traumatic brain injury is different, which is why a care coordinator is needed to refer each patient to the unique resources they need. In addition, due to their cognitive deficits, patients are often unable to follow through with recommendations without the help of an advocate. SB420 solves these problems by providing for service coordination. resource navigation. advocacy, and options counseling. By making these services available, the bill will result in a better use of limited health care dollars as well as better patient outcomes.

Thank you for your consideration of this important bill.