

Submitter: Thomas Busse

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB3157

This bill could be improved by involving the Pharmacy and Therapeutics committee of the Oregon Health Plan. This is a state-supported evidence based review operation at Oregon State University that has an extensive library of independent evidence-based reviews on the Cochrane Collaborative model.

Before enacting insurance mandates, the legislature would be wise to commission an evidence-based review of that mandate from the P/T Committee. A particularly expensive example is Hepatitis C Direct Acting Antivirals which are mismarketed as "miracle cures." Both the OHP P/T Committee and the Highly-Respected Cochrane Collaborative found no evidence for the effectiveness of these drugs because they were trialed on surrogate endpoints that failed to validate on clinical events. We've seen legislative pressure to cover these expensive drugs or remove insurance barriers. Having an evidence-based review to back up public policies will shield legislators from political criticism and insurers from litigation.