

Submitter: Anna Balmaseda
On Behalf Of: OHSU Doernbecher
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure: HB2927

February 28, 2023

RE: HB 2927 Statewide Steering Committee on Sickle Cell Disease

Dear House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care,

Hello! My name is Anna Balmaseda, I am a hospital school teacher at Doernbecher Children's Hospital part of the Oregon Health and Sciences University who works with students and families living with sickle cell disease. I am writing in support of House Bill 2927 as it is an effort to coordinate the multiple layers of care and education that these individuals and/or families need.

Sickle cell is a complex disease that primarily impacts communities of color. In Oregon, these are communities that have historically been under supported due to systemic racism. This bill is a opportunity for Oregon to devote some much needed attention and resources towards understanding and responding to the physical, social, and emotional needs of people impacted by sickle cell disease which should be an entitlement of all Oregonians.

I encourage you to vote in favor of House Bill 2927

Sincerely,

Anna Balmaseda, MAT SpEd
MESD Hospital School Program
Doernbecher Children's Hospital
Portland Oregon