

Submitter: Shawna Williams

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2927

Dear House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care,

I am Shawna Williams, a registered nurse at Oregon Health & Sciences University. I have helped care for our patients living with sickle cell disease for the last 22 years. I am testifying in support of HB2927.

Sickle cell disease is a complex disease that requires lifelong coordinated care from numerous aspects of the community and health care system. It primarily affects people of color, namely Black people and Hispanics in Oregon. Given past health care inequities and racism, our patients deserve the basic coordinated care and education that this bill proposes. Many of the families that I care for have significant socioeconomic barriers to finding and maintaining adequate health care to meet their complex needs.

Please read this editorial published in 2020 in the New England Journal of Medicine for more information:

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2022125> and consider voting in favor of this important bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Shawna Williams, RN, BSN, CPHON
Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, OR