

Submitter: Monsurat Akinyele

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2927

I have been afflicted with sickle cell my entire life and will proudly say it helped shaped me into who I am today. I am a hard-working pharmacist who enjoys the little things in life like most people. However, sickle cell disease significantly impacts every aspect of my life and how I am able to navigate it. I moved to Oregon a little over five years ago and love it here, I've had incredible neighbors and kind strangers lending a helping hand when stricken by my illness, and I wouldn't be here without their selfless acts and kind gestures. But, it saddens me that the state I call home lacks a comprehensive sickle cell center to care for those suffering from the disease. We pay so much attention to cancer and other terminal illnesses but forget to consider that a subset of people in our community suffers from an equally terminal, chronic, debilitating, painful disease in need of the same amount of care from healthcare providers. Navigating the healthcare system is a constant mental gymnastics I embark on every single day to make sure I receive the care I need to sustain a healthy body and fulfilling life. Access to health care, social support, and services for individuals with sickle cell disease would be a significant game changer for myself and fellow sickle cell warriors, a change in the right direction that signifies Oregon cares for all of its citizens equally.