



March 6, 2023

Delivered orally

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Goodwin & Nelson, and committee members:

Interim Chief Executive Officer
Emily Gilliland

For the record, my name is Jonathan Frochtzwaig; I'm the Public Policy Manager for Cascade AIDS Project, or CAP. I am testifying on behalf of CAP to respectfully oppose House Bill 3157.

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HB 3157 would create a committee to conduct policy analysis that we believe should be conducted by unbiased staff members of the Legislative Policy and Research Office and the Department of Consumer and Business Services. Instead, under this proposal, it would be conducted by a committee on which almost half of the voting members would represent insurers, health care providers, and businesses. The committee would include only one, unpaid position for a consumer, and none for organizations that advocate for people affected by health-insurance mandates.

The committee envisioned by HB 3157 would be charged with answering questions that would be beyond the expertise of its members, such as whether a proposal would ensure more or less equitable access to treatment and services. It would deal with subject matter as diverse as proton-beam therapy, applied behavioral analysis, and fertility services. And although the committee's reports would be officially advisory, similar officially advisory committees have become, effectively, decision-making bodies. This should concern anyone who wants healthy debate about health coverage to remain part of the legislative process.

If legislators feel that they don't have enough information about proposals for insurance-coverage requirements, we suggest that they direct LPRO and DCBS to provide that info and resource them to do so.

I'd like to add that a coalition that CAP is part of, including SEIU, Planned Parenthood Advocates, and Basic Rights Oregon, will submit written testimony listing a number of questions and concerns that we as a group have. Thank you for listening.