

**LISA REYNOLDS, MD
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
District 34**



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony in Support of SB 520
Senate Committee on Healthcare
Monday, March 13th, 2023

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and members of the committee, thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 520. I urge your aye vote.

Providing a compassionate system of medical release for adults in custody at the end of their lives is the right thing to do on many fronts. On a recent visit to the Oregon State Penitentiary's infirmary, I was struck and moved by the experiences of the AIC's there. I deeply believe that every Oregonian, regardless of their past, deserves dignity in their final hours. And, when these AICs present no threat to public safety, they should be allowed to leave custody after a careful review by medical experts.

Prior to release, eligible AICs will undergo a rigorous review by the new Medical Release Advisory Committee to establish and verify the medical issue at hand. As a physician, I know the training we go through, and I know that the experts on this Committee will base their decisions solely on the medical facts at hand. AICs who present a present danger to their communities, as well as those guilty of especially heinous crimes, would and should not be eligible for this program.

This will also save our state money – currently, AICs treated under the care of the Oregon Department of Corrections are not eligible to be covered by Medicare or Medicaid, which means that 100% of the cost of their care comes directly out of our state's general fund, losing out on significant federal funds. If these AICs are released for their final days, their care would be treated the same as other Oregonians, including making use of Medicare and Medicaid funds, saving Oregon taxpayer dollars.

I urge your support of this bill – it's the right thing to do morally, medically, and fiscally. Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Reynolds". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Representative Lisa Reynolds, MD
Oregon House District 34