



Good afternoon, Chair and members of the Committee.

I am Adam Zarrin, the Director of State Government Affairs for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society® (LLS) is a global leader in the fight against cancer. The LLS mission: Cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease, and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. LLS funds lifesaving blood cancer research around the world, provides free information and support services, and is the voice for all blood cancer patients seeking access to quality, affordable, coordinated care.

On behalf of blood cancer patients and their families, we testify in support of Senate Bill 1046 relating to provider networks.

Delays and red tape jeopardize patients' access to lifesaving cancer care — even with high-quality health insurance.

In many cases, the healthcare system we have today has created roadblocks for patients, rather than opening doors to the treatment they need.

Patients' odds of surviving cancer often hinge on their ability to access specialists who can evaluate, diagnose, and treat their particular type of cancer as quickly as possible.

Some blood cancer survival rates have more than doubled over the last 50 years. At the same time, insurance coverage in the U.S. has improved dramatically in recent years, with the uninsured rate reaching an [all-time low](#) of 8% in 2022, according to the federal government.

In a January 2023 report LLS and Manatt Health published entitled "[Vital Access: How Policymakers Can Streamline the Cancer Journey](#)," we offered concrete solutions to ensure the policies governing our health insurance system can keep up with the pace of new cancer treatments and diagnostics.

This includes ensuring access within narrow insurance networks – which are increasingly common in commercial health insurance and Medicaid – as well as eliminating red tape, streamlining prior authorization and appeals processes, and making it easier for patients to get care out-of-state.

We are excited that Oregon continues to be a leader in improving network adequacy. This will continue to drive better outcomes for patients.

Again, we thank the sponsors and appreciate the committee's time and consideration of this critical patient concern.

And urge your support of Senate Bill 1046.

Thank you.