

From the Desk of Senator Deb Patterson

Vote Yes on SB 1508

SB 1508 will ban Quality Adjusted Life Years (QALY). QALY is a flawed scoring system economists used to determine cost-effectiveness of proposed medical treatments. Healthcare payers determine who is eligible for healthcare resources by measuring how long a proposed medical treatment may improve someone's quality of life. These types of scores have no place influencing what conditions and treatments the Oregon Health Plan will cover.

What are the impacts of QALY?

- QALYs expand existing healthcare inequities by perversely impacting or denying care to people with chronic disease or disabilities, and older adults. =
- Because of the greater value QALY places on medical treatments that extend the lives of people without disabilities than on those that benefit people with disabilities, these groups are deemed “less worthy” to receive insurance coverage for new medicines or treatments.
- How to best care for a patient can be negatively impacted as well, since physicians consider QALY resource allocations when making care decisions.

QALYs are clearly discriminatory. The metric intentionally devalues treatments for older people, those with chronic illnesses or disabilities and people of and people of color to determine whether a treatment is cost-effective enough to be paid for by the Oregon Health Plan.

