



**Date:** February 8, 2024  
**To:** Senate Committee on Healthcare  
**From:** Oregon Health Equity Alliance (OHEA)  
**RE:** Support Senate Bill 1508

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Health Equity Alliance (OHEA) we are writing to support Senate Bill 1508. OHEA is one of ten regional health equity coalitions across Oregon and we serve Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties. We are a people of color-led collaborative, organized to center and uplift the wisdom of our communities of color through racial justice informed health equity policies and practices as part of the movement to dismantle white supremacy and shift the imbalance of power.

Accordingly we support Senate Bill 1508. The Quality-Adjusted Life-Year, QALY, is an economic scoring system used to determine cost-effectiveness of proposed medical treatments. This measuring system is flawed because it inherently discriminates in its calculation. QALY's devalue treatment for older people, people with chronic illnesses and disabilities, and people of color. QALY's are ableist in their measurement and inform a eugenicist logic that values an unrealistic measure of 'perfect health' often aligned with white supremacist 'logic'. Access to healthcare is a human right and practices like QALY do not define care. Everyone deserves access to the health and medical care they need.

Oregon lawmakers have an opportunity to provide a path to better access to care for people of color, chronically sick and disabled people, and older adults. Valuing all human life is a human right and health equity issue. With this, OHEA strongly urges you to pass Senate Bill 1508 out of the committee.

Thank you,  
Oregon Health Equity Alliance