



RE: Senate Bill 1595 – Family Financial Protection Act – SUPPORT

Good morning.

I am Adam Zarrin, Director of State Government Affairs for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Our mission is to cure blood cancer and improve the quality of life for patients and their families.

We support SB 1595.

Many patients feel trapped by their medical debt. That is why SB1595 is so important for Oregonians.

One of our patients in Klamath Falls has lived with asthma since he was young and then was diagnosed with cancer in his 20s.

He became too sick to work, and the bills started to stack up. His wife got sick, too, so they had to get a second apartment in Portland to be near the medical center.

This year alone, they paid over 1000 dollars for prescription drugs and 12,000 dollars for other medical costs. They've reduced their retirement savings.

Another patient in Portland who is living with disabilities was devastated when she learned she had Multiple Myeloma. But she was even more devastated to learn her monthly cost for treatment would be 23,000 dollars.

She thought about stopping or delaying her treatment because she could not afford the upfront costs.

Cancer is stressful enough. Coping with the stress of medical debt can leave patients feeling anxious and depressed.

Patients not only struggle to pay off their medical debt but also to afford other household expenses, like rent and groceries.

Patients need protection against garnishment and asset seizures that can worsen their ability to see a doctor or pay their bills.

We encourage you to support and protect patients by passing SB 1595.

Thank you.