

Submitter: Irene Smith

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB4139

Members of the Committee

My name is Irene Smith and I am writing in support of HB4139. My own history includes a career in medical research. It is so disheartening for me to hear that major scientific achievements proven to be of value for improving health and quality of life are unavailable to residents in the state of Oregon due to administrative barriers.

I incurred a brain injury myself 6 years ago and was fortunate to not need the advanced care that is only available outside Oregon. My involvement in the brain injury community in both nationally and Central Oregon has introduced me to many whose lives and quality of life were improved by specialized care at advanced facilities dedicated to brain injury.

How appalling that such care is not available to all Oregonians right here in our state. The Certificate of Need requirements have become the key barrier to the ability of the majority of brain- injured Oregonians receiving care necessary for them to have fulfilling lives.

Please support this bill.