

Submitter:

Elissa Baldwin

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4040

I am an acute myeloid leukemia survivor, diagnosed at 34 years old. I was treated at OHSU in 2016 and my total treatment was around \$1 Million over the course of 5 months. Thankfully, I had a disease that is on the SSDI compassionate list and was able to apply for Medicaid. But many cancer patients are not eligible for this and must keep working to keep insurance. With commercial insurance, the out of pocket costs for a disease like cancer can be unsustainable. A large deductible alone would be difficult to handle, let alone the maximum out-of-pocket costs for the year. I have friends with multiple myeloma who have monthly treatments that are over \$17k per month. Many patients would have significant financial hardships due to cancer treatments, yet those same patients would not fit under this new criteria for presumptive screening for financial assistance. At my diagnosis, I was in a professional healthcare career making only \$41k per year. I would not have fit into the screening criteria and even outside of that, my parents had to step in to pay the \$3500 out of pocket costs just for diagnostics. I oppose HB 4040 because it will make it more likely for cancer patients to go into debt because of expensive hospital bills. Please remove the hospital charity care section. Thank you.