



SEN. RICHARD DEVLIN

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER
CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON RULES
STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 19

PRESS ADVISORY

April 7, 2009

CONTACT: Molly Woon (503) 986-1074

Bill expanding access to live-saving clinical trials passes out of committee
SB 316 will address coverage of routine costs for trial participants

SALEM—Legislation sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Richard Devlin that expands patient access to clinical trials passed out of the Senate Health Care & Veterans’ Affairs Committee this morning. SB 316 will require insurance companies to cover routine care for patients participating in FDA approved clinical trials.

“Clinical trials provide potential pathways towards improved care, more effective medication, and ultimately, cures, for a variety of diseases,” said Devlin (D-Tualatin). “However, because some health plans define clinical trials as ‘experimental’ or ‘investigational,’ insurance coverage may not include the costs of routine care a patient would normally receive whether they were enrolled in the trial or not.”

Currently, some insurance companies will not cover costs for routine care like blood work, x-rays, and basic tests when a patient is participating in a clinical trial – even when the routine care is ordered by a primary physician not affiliated with the clinical trial. Effectively, some patients are penalized or prevented from participating in potentially life saving clinical trials.

“Oregon has some great institutions, including OHSU and the Willamette Valley Cancer Institute, that are doing remarkable work on finding cures for diseases,” said Deputy Senate Majority Leader Laurie Monnes Anderson, chair of the Senate Health Care Committee. “However, because of the barriers created by some insurance companies, many Oregonians are missing out on the opportunity to take part.”

SB 316 will now move to the full Senate for a vote. For more on information on the Access to Clinical Trials Coalition, click [here](#).

###