



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Written Testimony Only in SUPPORT of HB0654, HD1
RELATING TO HEALTH**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: February 26, 2019

Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The bill appropriates out of the general revenues an unspecified amount
2 for fiscal year (FY) 2019 – 2020 and an unspecified amount for FY 2020 – 2021 to the
3 University of Hawaii. The Department defers to the University of Hawaii for implementation
4 and fiscal implications, and to the priorities set forth in the Governor’s Executive Biennium
5 Budget request.

6 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) is in support of HB0654, HD1
7 which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii Cancer Center (UHCC) to determine
8 whether Hawaii has the highest incidence of liver and bile duct cancer in the country due to liver
9 fluke infection, aflatoxin ingestion, or intrahepatic bile duct dilation.

10 According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the UHCC, Hawaii has
11 had the highest or second highest rate of liver cancer in the country in recent years. Every year
12 in Hawaii there are one hundred eighty-four newly diagnosed cases of liver cancer, including
13 bile duct cancer. From 2004 to 2013, available data on liver cancer indicates an annual increase
14 in Hawaii of 2.1 percent in males and 1.3 percent in females. There are currently about one
15 thousand patients diagnosed with liver and bile duct cancer.¹

16 Approximately 70 percent of liver cases in the United States could potentially be
17 prevented through the elimination of exposure to risk factors, the most important of which are

¹ Hawaii Tumor Registry

1 excess body weight, chronic infection with hepatitis B virus (HBV) and/or hepatitis C virus
2 (HCV), type 2 diabetes, heavy alcohol consumption, and tobacco smoking.²

3 The DOH has been involved in statewide collaborative efforts to prevent liver cancer.
4 The Hawaii Comprehensive Cancer Control Program convenes and facilitates the Hawaii
5 Comprehensive Cancer Coalition (HCCC), a network of individuals and organizations that
6 provide leadership and coordination for cancer prevention and control activities throughout the
7 state. The Hawaii State Cancer Plan 2016 – 2020 was created by the HCCC to guide the state’s
8 cancer control and prevention efforts and to enhance collaboration between public and private
9 agencies and organizations. One objective in the state cancer plan is to increase HBV
10 vaccination of susceptible at-risk adults. The DOH’s Harm Reduction Services Branch offers
11 viral hepatitis services in collaboration with local community partners such as Hep Free Hawaii
12 to promote liver health and increase awareness of and access to viral hepatitis services. The
13 DOH will continue to collaborate with the UHCC on improving cancer screening rates and
14 increasing HBV and HCV vaccination rates to reduce the burden of liver cancer in the state.
15 Cessation programs are also available statewide to help smokers quit, and there are 19 CDC
16 recognized Diabetes Prevention Programs with satellite locations in Hawaii.

17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

² American Cancer Society Cancer Facts & Figures 2019. <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/research/cancer-facts-and-statistics/annual-cancer-facts-and-figures/2019/cancer-facts-and-figures-2019.pdf>



American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network
2370 Nu`uanu Avenue
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96817
808.432.9149
www.acscan.org

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

HB 654, HD1 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Cory Chun, Government Relations Director – Hawaii Pacific
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 654, HD1, which appropriates an unspecified amount to the University of Hawaii Cancer Center to determine the cause of Hawaii's high incidence rate of liver cancer. Effective 7/1/50.

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) is the nation's leading cancer advocacy organization. ACS CAN works with federal, state, and local government bodies to support evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem.

We recognize that cancer research is the engine behind our ongoing progress in the fight against cancer. Research offers hope to people who face cancer – for better treatments, for more opportunities to prevent and detect the disease early on, and for improved quality of life for those already diagnosed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.

HB-654-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 10:23:26 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

HB-654-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 9:16:47 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
LUCIEN WONG	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

The American Cancer Society, Dept of Health and the UHCC have all testified in support. of HB654.

Why does Hawaii have highest rate of liver cancer in the country?

Dr. Wei Jia at the UHCC said "According to The U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center, in recent years Hawai'i has had the *highest or second highest rate of liver cancer in the country.*

Every year in Hawaii there are 184 newly diagnosed cases of liver including bile duct cancer diagnosed according to the Hawaii Tumor Registry. And from 2004 to 2013, for which the data is available, this cancer increased 2.1% for males and 1.3% for females each year while the incidence for many other cancers such as colon, lung, stomach and prostate declined. There are currently about 1,000 patients in Hawaii fighting liver/bile duct cancer which are almost always fatal." The causes of this high incidence of cancer are not yet known.

Are Liver Flukes one of the reasons?

Liver flukes are one of the main causes of liver/bile duct cancer in various parts of tropical Far East. This has been well researched and widely reported (e.g. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/how-a-liver-fluke-causes-cancer-18173277/>).

Research shows that the most common way to get a liver fluke infection is by eating uncooked fresh water fish or watercress. "A liver fluke is a parasitic worm. Infections in humans usually occur after eating contaminated raw or undercooked freshwater fish or watercress. After liver flukes have been ingested, they travel from your intestines to your bile ducts in your liver where they then live and grow."
<https://www.healthline.com/health/liver-fluke>

Are There Liver Flukes in Hawaii?

A UH research study entitled *Parasite Infections of Man and Animals in Hawaii* by Joseph E. Alicata a professor at the Hawaii Agricultural Experiment Station, College of Tropical Agriculture, University of Hawaii, November 1964, clearly shows that liver flukes are relatively common in Hawaii found in various animals and snails in and near fresh water habitats such as streams, ponds and wet soil.

<https://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/oc/freepubs/pdf/tb-61.pdf>

According to one report: "*There are twelve watercress farms in Oahu, each growing a different variety of watercress, but all twelve are in the vicinity of the Pearl Harbor Spring (the rest around Pearl City and Waipahu).*"

<http://hawaiiindependent.net/story/sumida-farms-embraces-the-past-and-future-of-agriculture-in-hawaii>

Research should be done at the UH Cancer Center immediately to determine whether residents of Hawaii are at risk of liver/bile duct cancer by eating uncooked watercress which may be infected with liver flukes. There are other possible causes such as eating foods with aflatoxins, produced by a fungus abundant in warm and humid regions, that can grow on foods such as grains e.g. rice and nuts that have been stored improperly. This too should be researched by UHCC.

Hawaii has a 33% higher incidence of liver/bile duct cancer than the national norm. Currently over 1,000 people in Hawaii suffer from this almost always terminal cancer and sadly every year 184 new cases are diagnosed and it's increasing while other cancers are not. Please take a moment to understand how serious a problem it is for Hawaii by listening to Dr. Kozak's Hawaii Public Radio Body Show on the dire need to fund research at UHCC to answer this:

https://cpa.ds.npr.org/khpr/audio/2018/03/BodyShow_031218.mp3

Testimony in Support of HB 654, HD1

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair Committee on Finance
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair Committee on Finance

From: Dyan M. Medeiros

Re: In support of HB 654, HD 1

Hearing Date: February 26, 2019

Hearing Time: 12:30 p.m.

Hearing Place: Conference Room 308

Representative Luke, Representative Cullen, and Members of the Committee,

I submit this testimony as a private citizen in strong support of HB 654, HD1.

My father, Albert P. Medeiros, Jr., was diagnosed on August 14, 2018 with bile duct cancer (cholangiocarcinoma). He passed away 5 months later at the age of 71. His loss has been devastating to our family. He was a single father and the only parent my sister and I had ever known. But for this cancer, my father was in good health. His parents lived to be far older than 71 and one of his siblings is 80. But for this cancer, he would still be with us today and for a long time to come.

My father suffered from none of the common causes of bile duct cancer (hepatitis, heavy alcohol consumption, or liver disease). He was born and raised in Hawai'i. He was an avid waterman and fisherman and loved to eat fish.

If the people of Hawai'i are suffering from this horrible form of cancer (it is incurable and fatal usually less than one year from diagnosis) due to one or more of the conditions that the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center wishes to study, we deserve to know that. We deserve to know so our people can protect themselves and their loved ones and to prevent future losses of those we hold dear.

I urge you to fund HB654, HD1, change the effective year to 2019, I and then pass it in the strongest possible terms. Thank you.

HB-654-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 11:43:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nani Medeiros	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Good afternoon Chair Luke and Vice-Chair Cullen. My name is Nani Medeiros and I am here to testify in support of House Bill 654, Relating to Health. On August 14, 2018, my father, Albert P. Medeiros Jr., was diagnosed with stage 4 cholangiocarcinoma, also known as bile duct cancer. Five months later, on January 14, 2019, he lost his battle.

The measure before you appropriates an unspecified amount of funding, originally \$720,000 for the University of Hawaii Cancer Center to research the incidence and causes of bile duct and liver cancer in Hawaii. I urge you to pass this measure.

Have you ever heard of cholangiocarcinoma? Before August 14 of last year I hadn't either. Have you ever heard of a liver fluke? Did you know that eating undercooked fish could cause cancer 20 years later? Did you know that eating raw watercress could have the same effect? Did you know that eating rice or other grains that haven't been stored properly, or have been stored for too long, can cause cancer? I didn't even know there was a "proper" way to store rice.

There has already been conclusive and credible research that justifies the above assertions. Shouldn't the public be made aware of the risk factors in consuming fish or vegetables that can carry cancer causing liver flukes or aflotoxins? Is it worth the risk to possibly poison ourselves, our kids, simply because we didn't want to invest in the research?

Although Hawaii has had the highest and second highest rates of liver and bile duct cancer in the country in recent years, our cases do not seem to be caused by the usual factors of hepatitis B and alcoholism. Perhaps the causes are more environmental, and diet related. This bill will help to answer the questions of what is causing Hawaii's high rate of liver and bile duct cancer. And, with that information, education, and awareness, lives could be saved; real people, real families.

If Hawaii can spend \$1 million on research for rat lung worm when only 20 people contracted it (and it's not a lethal cancer), we must be able to make an equal if not greater investment in preventing local people from contracting a cancer than may be preventable and treatable if the liver fluke ends up being the cause.

Please pass this measure, and help save lives every year.

HB-654-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 1:24:48 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Although I appreciate the good intent of this bill, I am in opposition to its enactment. As an individual whose family members, loved ones, and community members have been affected by liver cancer, I am uncertain as to the merit of this bill.

The known causes for most liver cancer in Hawaii--specifically viral hepatitis and non alcoholic steatohepatitis)--are well known and yet still under-funded. I think it is irresponsible to allocate state funds to investigate rare, unsubstantiated causes of liver cancer, rather than dedicate public health funds to known, preventable diseases such as hepatitis B and C.

Please see the attached for more information about hepatitis B and C in Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Thaddeus Pham

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB654
RELATING TO HEALTH

I am writing in support of HB654, which would appropriate funds for the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center to determine the reasons that Hawaii has the highest incidence of liver and bile duct cancer in the country.

According to the American Cancer Society's Cancer Facts and Figures 2018, an estimated 180 Hawaii residents will die from liver cancer this year. This bill would specifically allow the Hawaii Cancer Center to examine risk factors tied to liver cancer, including liver fluke infection, aflatoxin ingestion, and intrahepatic bile duct dilation in the general population and liver cancer patients in Hawaii, and examine any associations with participant characteristics, such as ethnicity. This research will allow further clarity on whether the state's high rates of liver cancer are due to hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus, and heavy alcohol consumption or the other risk factors listed above.

I humbly ask for your support of HB654 as it would appropriate funding scientific research on liver cancer and help to provide further information as to the reasons why Hawai'i has the highest incidence of liver and bile duct cancer in the country

Bernadette Sakoda
Lihue, Hawaii 96766

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB654
RELATING TO HEALTH**

I am writing in support of HB654, which would appropriate funds for the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center to determine the reasons that Hawaii has the highest incidence of liver and bile duct cancer in the country.

According to the American Cancer Society's Cancer Facts and Figures 2018, an estimated 180 Hawaii residents will die from liver cancer this year. This bill would specifically allow the Hawaii Cancer Center to examine risk factors tied to liver cancer, including liver fluke infection, aflatoxin ingestion, and intrahepatic bile duct dilation in the general population and liver cancer patients in Hawaii, and examine any associations with participant characteristics, such as ethnicity. This research will allow further clarity on whether the state's high rates of liver cancer are due to hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus, and heavy alcohol consumption or the other risk factors listed above.

I humbly ask for your support of HB654 as it would appropriate funding scientific research on liver cancer and help to provide further information as to the reasons why Hawai'i has the highest incidence of liver and bile duct cancer in the country

**Sincerely,
Chandra Quinlan**

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB654
RELATING TO HEALTH

I am writing in support of HB654, which would appropriate funds for the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center to determine the reasons that Hawaii has the highest incidence of liver and bile duct cancer in the country.

According to the American Cancer Society's Cancer Facts and Figures 2018, an estimated 180 Hawaii residents will die from liver cancer this year. This bill would specifically allow the Hawaii Cancer Center to examine risk factors tied to liver cancer, including liver fluke infection, aflatoxin ingestion, and intrahepatic bile duct dilation in the general population and liver cancer patients in Hawaii, and examine any associations with participant characteristics, such as ethnicity. This research will allow further clarity on whether the state's high rates of liver cancer are due to hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus, and heavy alcohol consumption or the other risk factors listed above.

As a recent cancer survivor, I urge you to support HB654 as it would appropriate funding to support scientific research on liver cancer and help to provide further information as to the reasons why Hawai'i has the highest incidence of liver and bile duct cancer in the country. The sooner we can find out why this is happening, we can start to explore ways for better prevention. Then hopefully, our family and friends will not have to suffer through liver cancer.

Mahalo,

Uri Lyne Martos
Lawai, Hawaii 96765

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB654
RELATING TO HEALTH**

I am writing in support of HB654, which would appropriate funds for the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center to determine the reasons that Hawaii has the highest incidence of liver and bile duct cancer in the country.

According to the American Cancer Society's Cancer Facts and Figures 2018, an estimated 180 Hawaii residents will die from liver cancer this year. This bill would specifically allow the Hawaii Cancer Center to examine risk factors tied to liver cancer, including liver fluke infection, aflatoxin ingestion, and intrahepatic bile duct dilation in the general population and liver cancer patients in Hawaii, and examine any associations with participant characteristics, such as ethnicity. This research will allow further clarity on whether the state's high rates of liver cancer are due to hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus, and heavy alcohol consumption or the other risk factors listed above.

I humbly ask for your support of HB654 as it would appropriate funding scientific research on liver cancer and help to provide further information as to the reasons why Hawai'i has the highest incidence of liver and bile duct cancer in the country

**Sincerely,
Patrick Tran**

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB654
RELATING TO HEALTH

I am writing in support of HB654, which would appropriate funds for the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center to determine the reasons that Hawaii has the highest incidence of liver and bile duct cancer in the country.

According to the American Cancer Society's Cancer Facts and Figures 2018, an estimated 180 Hawaii residents will die from liver cancer this year. This bill would specifically allow the Hawaii Cancer Center to examine risk factors tied to liver cancer, including liver fluke infection, aflatoxin ingestion, and intrahepatic bile duct dilation in the general population and liver cancer patients in Hawaii, and examine any associations with participant characteristics, such as ethnicity. This research will allow further clarity on whether the state's high rates of liver cancer are due to hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus, and heavy alcohol consumption or the other risk factors listed above.

I humbly ask for your support of HB654 as it would appropriate funding scientific research on liver cancer and help to provide further information as to the reasons why Hawai'i has the highest incidence of liver and bile duct cancer in the country

Sincerely,
Stella Lee

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB654
RELATING TO HEALTH

I am writing in support of HB654, which would appropriate funds for the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center to determine the reasons that Hawaii has the highest incidence of liver and bile duct cancer in the country.

According to the American Cancer Society's Cancer Facts and Figures 2018, an estimated 180 Hawaii residents will die from liver cancer this year. This bill would specifically allow the Hawaii Cancer Center to examine risk factors tied to liver cancer, including liver fluke infection, aflatoxin ingestion, and intrahepatic bile duct dilation in the general population and liver cancer patients in Hawaii, and examine any associations with participant characteristics, such as ethnicity. This research will allow further clarity on whether the state's high rates of liver cancer are due to hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus, and heavy alcohol consumption or the other risk factors listed above.

I humbly ask for your support of HB654 as it would appropriate funding scientific research on liver cancer and help to provide further information as to the reasons why Hawai'i has the highest incidence of liver and bile duct cancer in the country

Sincerely,
Gary Tanimitsu

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Other Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Sara Teixeira, and I am writing in support of HB654, which would appropriate funds for the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center to determine the reasons that Hawaii has the highest incidence of liver and bile duct cancer in the country.

According to the American Cancer Society's Cancer Facts and Figures 2018, an estimated 180 Hawaii residents will die from liver cancer this year. This bill would specifically allow the Hawaii Cancer Center to examine risk factors tied to liver cancer, including liver fluke infection, aflatoxin ingestion, and intrahepatic bile duct dilation in the general population and liver cancer patients in Hawaii, and examine any associations with participant characteristics, such as ethnicity. This research will allow further clarity on whether the state's high rates of liver cancer are due to hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus, and heavy alcohol consumption or the other risk factors listed above.

I humbly ask for your support of HB654 as it would appropriate funding scientific research on liver cancer and help to provide further information as to the reasons why Hawai'i has the highest incidence of liver and bile duct cancer in the country

Sincerely,
Sara Teixeira

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Other Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Lani Almanza and I am writing in support of HB654, which would appropriate funds for the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center to determine the reasons that Hawaii has the highest incidence of liver and bile duct cancer in the country.

According to the recently released American Cancer Society's Cancer Facts and Figures 2019, an estimated 190 Hawaii residents will die from liver cancer this year, an increase from the estimated 180 Hawaii residents reported in the 2018 facts and figures.

This bill would specifically allow the Hawaii Cancer Center to examine risk factors tied to liver cancer, including liver fluke infection, aflatoxin ingestion, and intrahepatic bile duct dilation in the general population and liver cancer patients in Hawaii, and examine any associations with participant characteristics, such as ethnicity. This research will allow further clarity on whether the state's high rates of liver cancer are due to hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus, and heavy alcohol consumption or the other risk factors listed above.

I humbly ask for your support of HB654 as it would appropriate funding scientific research on liver cancer and help to provide further information as to the reasons why Hawai'i has the highest incidence of liver and bile duct cancer in the country

Sincerely,
Lani Almanza

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Other Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Chelseajane Gonzales, and I am writing in support of HB654, which would appropriate funds for the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center to determine the reasons that Hawaii has the highest incidence of liver and bile duct cancer in the country.

According to the American Cancer Society's Cancer Facts and Figures 2018, an estimated 180 Hawaii residents will die from liver cancer this year. This bill would specifically allow the Hawaii Cancer Center to examine risk factors tied to liver cancer, including liver fluke infection, aflatoxin ingestion, and intrahepatic bile duct dilation in the general population and liver cancer patients in Hawaii, and examine any associations with participant characteristics, such as ethnicity. This research will allow further clarity on whether the state's high rates of liver cancer are due to hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus, and heavy alcohol consumption or the other risk factors listed above.

I humbly ask for your support of HB654 as it would appropriate funding scientific research on liver cancer and help to provide further information as to the reasons why Hawai'i has the highest incidence of liver and bile duct cancer in the country

Sincerely,
Chelseajane Gonzales

HB-654-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 2:25:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
JOHN KNOX	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and House Finance Committee Members --

My name is John Knox, and I am a Waimanalo resident testifying as a private individual in support of HB 654, HD1, to begin systematic research into why Hawai`i leads the nation in liver bile/duct cancer incidence.

It does not greatly affect our economy that an average 184 Hawai`i residents per year die, often painfully, of this cancer. It should, however, affect our consciences that we have not yet carefully researched why we're number one in the nation for our population.

You have difficult decisions to make about the allocation of the State's fiscal resources. However, the originally requested amounts of \$340,000 and \$380,000 for the next two years, as per recommendation of the Committees on Lower & Higher Education and Health.

Thank you for consideration of this testimony.

Respectfully Submitted, John M. Knox

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 654, HD 1

TO: House Committee on Finance

FROM: Nikos Leverenz
Grants, Development & Policy Manager

DATE: February 26, 2019 (21:30 PM)

Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **opposes** HB 748, HD 1, which would appropriate funds the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center to determine whether Hawai'i has the highest incidence in the country of liver and bile duct cancer due to liver fluke infection, aflatoxin ingestion, or intrahepatic bile duct dilation.

HHRC works with many individuals who are impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. We appreciate the desire to support medical research but funding for additional screening and treatment of liver diseases is a more urgent public health priority. Not so long ago, [Hawai'i received the grade of "D+" from the National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable and Harvard Law School's Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation](#). The low grade was attributable to the unfortunate reality that patient access to needed care was limited by liver damage, sobriety, and prescriber requirements by Medicaid Fee-For-Service (FFS) and managed care organizations (MCOs) participating in QUEST.

While the state has made some effort to lower these barriers to care through policy directives [like that issued late last year](#), FFS and MCOs still retain the broad latitude to impose their own criteria that frustrate parity and transparency. Over 63,000 people in Hawai'i may have chronic hepatitis B or C. Public health policy, including legislative appropriations, should be geared toward increased screening and treatment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.