

Chairman Smith Warner, Chairman Monroe, members of the committee. My name is Mike Smith, and I come before you as a private citizen living in Corvallis. I thank you for the opportunity to testify about how OHSU's Child Development and Rehabilitation Center has helped my family. In particular, I want to tell you about the excellence of our Hemophilia Treatment Center.

My three teenage children and I have von Willebrand's Disease, an inherited bleeding disorder that inhibits our ability to form and sustain clots when we suffer an injury. My son was first diagnosed with severe von Willebrand's as an infant. We lived in the state of South Carolina at the time, and we did not have access to the specialized knowledge and resources of a hemophilia treatment center. We were assigned a hematologist from an oncology center and we learned very little of our disease and its treatments. Every bump, bruise, and sprain left us anxious and uncertain; we were told that uncontrolled bleeding could have crippling and life threatening consequences and we paid frequent visits to emergency rooms.

My career brought us to Oregon four years ago, and we learned immediately how helpful our hemophilia treatment center could be. We had been in our house just four days when my son, eleven at the time, broke his arm racing new-found friends on his scooter. Our local emergency room helped with the fracture, but to prevent serious complications we needed the help of a pediatric hematologist and that's exactly what we got from CDRC's Hemophilia Treatment Center. Expert treatment advice that day ensured any bleeding from the injury was controlled, and a visit was arranged the next day to the HTC clinic in Doernbecher hospital. That began our relationship with the awesome staff of doctors, nurses, social workers, and therapists with CDRC's Hemophilia Treatment Center.

We feel in control, no longer in fear of our von Willebrand's Disease. CDRC's Hemophilia Treatment Center staff helped all three of my children to learn the vital skill of self-infusing with the von Willebrand factor they need to control bleeding. All three of my teens are active student athletes, enthusiastic competitors in running, swimming, and Irish dance. Even those low impact sports come with injuries, but CDRC's hemophilia treatment center staff have empowered us to confidently diagnose and treat minor bumps and sprains. In fact, this morning that same son was up extra early to self-infuse to treat an ankle he injured yesterday at track practice. I'm happy to say that I cannot remember the last time we had to visit that emergency room, and I don't miss the anxiety, the hours lost, and the expense.

With no cure in sight, von Willebrand's is a disease my teens will have all their lives, but thanks to OHSU's Child Development and Rehabilitation Center, I am confident their lives will be long, active, and healthy.

We have an excellent Hemophilia Treatment Center here in Oregon. Thank you again for this opportunity to help you understand the difference our Treatment Center has made in the lives of my family.