



Oregon Legislature  
SB 703 Public Hearing  
Personal Testimony of Raj Sharma, CEO of Health Wizz, Inc.  
February 19, 2019

Chairman Prozanski, members of the Committee, on behalf of Health Wizz, Inc., I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to share our views with you today.

I am Raj Sharma, a citizen of the State of Virginia, a healthcare entrepreneur, and co-founder and CEO of Health Wizz. I've spent my career building companies using state of the art technologies to help small businesses and consumers. Most recently, I co-founded Health Wizz in 2016 to help patients collect, control and share their medical records. Of all my entrepreneurial endeavors, I believe what we're doing at Health Wizz will have the broadest impact due to our focus on using health data to make a difference in people's lives.

We at Health Wizz believe in the patient's rights to own and control their health data as they see fit, and believe this Bill introduces a key element that should not be overlooked as a motivating factor toward that end: financial incentive. Our "health system" right now struggles to connect different pieces of information about the same patient (even in the same hospital system) and few efforts to date have been successful in creating lifetime medical records for patients. Without these critical pieces of the puzzle, our healthcare system will continue to struggle and eventually fail, and the only way we believe it's possible to build the comprehensive health data we need to move forward is with the patient at the center.

When the patient is in full control of, and motivated to improve, their health data, we believe will usher in a new era for medical research, as for the first time, patient's will have a financial interest in contributing their valuable health data to the research projects that need it most. Right now, biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies purchase access to poor quality data from 3rd party data brokers; some of these companies can spend up to \$12M each year buying information that's inaccurate, misleading and often dangerous ([Scientific American, 2016](#)). To move research forward and give clinical researchers the information they need to bring life-saving therapies to market more quickly and for less cost, the patient must be incented to participate in a meaningful way. As a patient, receiving a share of the value that my data generates could help me control my healthcare costs, and I should have the choice to exercise my rights as an American citizen to use my data as I see fit, regardless of any perceived risk to my privacy.

Those of us that work in healthcare data know that the concept of privacy is rapidly eroding due to the fact that data brokers use advanced algorithms to scrape personal data from multiple databases to create "dossiers" that can be used to easily identify you. This is how those targeted advertisements get served to your internet browser for weeks after you search for a product or company on the web. We don't need more privacy legislation - what we need are laws that enforce transparency, and this Bill does exactly that by bringing a currently black-box



marketplace into the light.

We support the passing of this landmark Bill, and applaud the Oregon Legislature for taking this first necessary step in the debate over the consumer's right to own their data.

Again, thank you for your time and for the opportunity to be heard.

Sincerely

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Raj P. Sharma'.

Raj Sharma  
co-founder & CEO  
Health Wizz, Inc.