

SUPPORT SB 738

February 25, 2020

Health Care Providers and Health Benefit Plans - Discrimination in Provision of Services Support SB 738

Early in 2019, I was experiencing urine flow problems. Some people I know highly recommended Dr. Rodriguez who listed this problem as a specialty of his on his web page. He also had the advantage that he was a member of a prominent practice located not far from my home.

After seeing me and finding out I am transgender, Dr. Rodriguez refused to treat me further. He referred me to another doctor a substantial distance away who did not list urine flow issues on their website. Despite the lack of expertise and the increased difficulty in getting there, I followed up on the referral. When I called and tried to get an appointment with that doctor, the doctor's office told me they didn't treat that sort of problem. When I told them this, Dr. Rodriguez's office gave me another referral to a doctor even further away who didn't list urine flow among their specialties. At that point I had lost all confidence in Dr. Rodriguez being able to refer me for alternate care. I had some difficulties finding another urologist. I ended up seeing someone some distance away who retired abruptly shortly before a follow-up appointment. The alternates they gave were even further away.

Having been denied stable, expert care in a well-known practice close to my place of residence as a result of my history as a transgender person, I grew frustrated and have been living with this condition without medical care.

I would ask the committee to vote in support of SB 738 which is important legislation.

Sincerely,

Suzi Gerb