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April 5, 2013

To: Oregon House Health Care Committee  
From: Jim Gilbert, owner, Northwoods Nursery  
Re: Support for HB 3260

Chair Greenlich and committee members,

My name is Jim Gilbert, owner of Northwoods Nursery in Molalla and member of the Statewide Leadership Circle of Main Street Alliance of Oregon.

I would like to express my support, and the support of the Main Street Alliance of Oregon, for House Bill 3260, which would allow the Oregon Health Authority to conduct a study or contract with a third party to study options for efficiently providing healthcare to all Oregonians.

My nursery business in south Clackamas County employs about 35 full-time employees, whose health is very important to us. For many years we have paid for health insurance for our employees, a cost to our business that increases significantly every year. Because of the increasing costs of healthcare to Oregon businesses like ours, it is important that we look at all options to provide the best care for our employees and all Oregon residents.

A number of studies such as the one proposed have been conducted nationally and in other states. None, however, address the specific issue of their effects on Oregon patients, Oregon's economy, or Oregon's physicians and providers. With Oregon spending \$30 billion annually on health care, it is important that we use our money efficiently and effectively.

Innovation is a hallmark of our state and we have shown that we are willing to confront challenges that other states avoid. This legislation not only will give legislators smart options to deal with what is becoming a huge portion of the state's budget, but will also promote healthier communities for our future. This study costs taxpayers little but can potentially save Oregonians millions of dollars in future health care spending.

We urge you to vote yes on HB 3260.

Thank you.