

April 5, 2013

To: Oregon State Legislators
From: Main Street Alliance of Oregon
Re: Support of HB 3260

Main Street Alliance of Oregon, a network of over 1200 small business owners throughout Oregon, supports HB 3260, which would allow the Oregon Health Authority to conduct a study or contract with a third party to study options for efficient spending on healthcare in Oregon.

In a recent poll of rural Oregon small business owners we learned that 86% of those surveyed do not supply health insurance for their employees. Many cite rising costs as why, even if they formerly provided health insurance, they do not now.

Because of the increasing costs of healthcare to the state, we must look at all financing options to provide the best care for Oregonians. A number of studies such as the one proposed in this bill 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 the money in a financially prudent way, and get the best bang for our bucks.

Oregon, in initiatives like Cover Oregon and the Coordinated Care Organizations, has shown we are willing to take pioneering steps to confront challenges other states continue to shirk. We believe that this bill will not only give legislators smart options to deal with what is becoming a huge portion of state's budget, but also promote healthier communities for tomorrow.

This study will cost taxpayers little but can potentially save them millions of dollars in health care spending in years to come. It may even save many of their lives and the lives of their family members.

We urge you to vote yes on HB 3260.

Yours respectfully,



Jim Houser, co-chair
Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland



Mark Kellenbeck, co-chair
BrainJoy LLC, Medford