

Amy Roy from Corvallis in support of HB 2922

Many years ago my husband and I lived in Australia where they had recently instituted a single payer health care system. It took a little adjusting for us because we felt insecure and exposed without paying for private health insurance. It turned out to be really easy and convenient. We went to the doctor and paid about \$20 for the visit, then we went next door to the government office, presented our receipt and got \$18 back. When my husband cut his leg, I took him to the emergency room for stitches and they just took him in and got to work. I went to the desk to fill out paperwork and all they wanted was his name. We never received a bill. If Australia can do it, so can we.

These days I am a volunteer for Health Care for All Oregon and Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates. In my outreach to the community I have met many people who would benefit from HB 2922, and frankly very many who are in dire need. I have not met any individual who would be harmed. It doesn't matter what category they fall into, they will all benefit.

Individuals will be able to afford health care in order to stay healthy and productive and not worry that an accident or illness will leave them unable to provide for themselves and their families. They can start a business or find a job that suits them and not have to consider the need for health care benefits.

Working People can stop worrying about what kind of health care benefits will be provided with their employment. There are many labor disputes because employees have to negotiate for their health care package and that price is skyrocketing and making it difficult for both employees and employers to afford the care they need to be productive. Many working people have seen the coverage they receive decrease to the level that they are starting to avoid care in order to save money. That is a bad investment because in the long run it is cheaper to get more care than to wait until you need expensive care.

Business Owners can feel good that their employees are receiving the health care that they need in a way that they can both afford. Most businesses want to take care of their employees, but find the cost is just too high. With everyone included in a simplified and equitable system without all the expensive overhead of multiple and unnecessary insurance companies, affordable, high-quality health care can be available to all. When companies and employees are not worried about health care, they can expand, hire more workers, and help get the economy growing again.

Unemployed Oregonians can put their energy into retraining and looking for new employment opportunities without the burden of high COBRA rates and the risk of personal bankruptcy due to medical bills.

Retired people can be assured that their children, grandchildren, and other loved ones are covered and will not need to seek emergency financial help with burdensome health care bills. Even people with insurance go bankrupt and retired people on fixed incomes only have so much help they can give.

HB 2922 will be beneficial for EVERYONE in Oregon, and the sooner we implement it, the better we will all be.

Thank you for your time.

Amy Roy