

## **Written Testimony in Support of HB 2922**

I would like to urge the Oregon legislature to approve HB 2922.

It is time for at least Oregon to adopt universal single-payer health care like the rest of the developed world. I work in the health field and believe we can no longer afford the high costs and poor outcomes of private insurance supported health care delivery.

Under our current system, 3% of our health care costs go to fraud and the average private insurer's overhead is 12% compared to less than 2% for single-payer systems like Medicare and the Canadian healthcare system. A single-payer system could reduce our health care costs by 13% just by eliminating fraud and unnecessary overhead costs. It could also give us control to curb medical inflation and provide even greater savings over time while providing better outcomes for patients.

We already have a single-payer system with Medicare which is regarded more favorably by the public than our private delivery system. Health care savings can stimulate the economy by lowering the costs of hiring new workers. If we just paid for health care and not for insurance premiums we would save a great deal. If the cost of health care was not lower than the cost of insurance, there would be no insurance companies.

A universal health care system would also allow health care to be driven by patient needs not by what is profitable to health care providers. It could also be more accountable to those who are paying for it and depending upon it.

I hope Oregon's legislators can have the courage to do what is best for Oregonians and not succumb to the fear of entrenched interests.

Jasper Smith, Corvallis, Oregon