

Mr. Chairman:

I appreciate the opportunity to submit this written testimony in opposition to HB 2922.

Oregonians should be stunned by the audacity of the sponsors of this proposed legislation - a bill that attempts to create a government run, single payer health insurance system more expansive than even the President of the United States and the Congress of the United States dared not do.

The President and federal legislators know what this Legislative Assembly should know. The American people do not want a single payer, government run health insurance program because they know that such programs are inevitably proven to be staggeringly inefficient and costly. A simple review of the Canadian, British, other European social democracies and, indeed, the State of Massachusetts confirm the inherent inefficiencies and unanticipated costs of government run health insurance systems.

HB 2922 would expand the eligibility requirements for Medicaid to include income levels higher than anything anyone would consider appropriate for support of the poor. In addition, the bill forces all state employees to give up their union negotiated health insurance benefits for what is called the All Oregon Plan. Given what will likely happen with passage of this bill, Oregon will have fewer physicians willing to accept All Oregon Plan subscribers and there will be increasingly fewer hospitals beds available to care for Oregonians. This is what has happened in other venues and this is what will happen in Oregon.

Finally, HB 2922 condemns itself by repealing six state programs dealing with health insurance. SIX! This demonstrates without a doubt that even when private health care insurance is the prevailing modus operandi, the government still manages to insert itself into health care.

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