

Dear Health Care Administrator,

I am in favor of single payer health coverage and for SB 631. I am a semi-retired community college professor and unfortunately, due to a bout with cancer and a surgical accident (punctured aorta) that nearly killed me 23 years ago, I left my full time teaching job before I was fully vested in retirement pension and medical coverage. I was able to be covered through my husband's insurance (at a high cost to us) until I finally qualified for Medicare several years ago. Without Medicare, my medical bills would be a great burden to us. And, of course, I am paying for a supplemental policy as well. One of the reasons that I am not fully retired is that I must keep earning some income to meet all of my expenses, including health care. And, I am one of the more fortunate people who has means, although modest, to meet my financial obligations. I think of the many who are less able than myself.

I am concerned about the thousands of dollars many younger than Medicare people must spend upon health care premiums, deductibles and prescriptions. This is a tremendous burden. Also, the burden upon public institutions, such public schools, libraries, and even small private businesses to provide some form of health insurance for their employees puts these institutions at risk. The money, for example, that is spent by public schools for this coverage could be better used for educational programs if single payer health coverage was instituted.

Oregon needs an equitable, affordable, workable plan to provide health care for all. I believe that SB 631 is such a plan.

Thanks for your time,
Alice Shapiro
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