



UPSTREAM
PUBLIC HEALTH

September 14, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to submit testimony on R301. This ballot title completely ignores the impact of the referendum. Without the state funds and billions of dollars in federal money that the assessment secures, the health care of 375,000 Oregonians will be in jeopardy. This referendum will mean terrible cuts to care for Oregonians across the state if HB 2391 is repealed.

Rural Oregonians will also see higher health care costs and fewer insurance options. It is important that ALL Oregonians understand the impact of Referendum 301. Insurers are likely to raise rates or pull out of markets all together. The ballot title should explicitly list how many people stand to lose their healthcare, how much premiums could increase, and the reduction in insurer options in rural Oregon.

The health of hundreds of thousands of Oregonians is at risk with Referendum 301. Voters are entitled to know the information they are voting on and should be as informed as possible as to the ramifications of the referendum.

Please do the right thing for Oregonians and provide the most accurate information on the ballot title.

Sincerely,

Jill Thompson Hutson
Board Chair
Upstream Public Health

