

Senator Richard Devlin
Representative Dan Rayfield
Joint Interim Committee on Referendum 301 Oregon State Legislature

Chair Rayfield and Chair Devlin, members of the committee, my name is Paula Likes and I am a homecare worker in Portland and I get my healthcare through the Oregon Health Plan. I am writing today to give you my perspective on Referendum 301.

Access to healthcare is so incredibly important to my family and I. Before I began receiving coverage through the Oregon Health Plan, I lived in fear that illness or an accident would lead to financial ruin. Getting covered by OHP changed my life. I can now rest easy knowing that we can handle an illness or an accident, and my family is able to take advantage of preventative care in a way we couldn't before.

As politicians in Washington do everything they can take healthcare away from families like mine, the Oregon Healthcare Protections bill protects us and more than 300,000 other low-income Oregonians.

I don't believe anyone can vote on a repeal of this legislation without seeing the impact it could have on families like mine. The ballot title should say that the referendum would put 300,000 people's healthcare at risk. If it does not, voters will not be able to fully understand how Referendum 301 will impact our state.

Paula Likes,
Portland Oregon