

Honorable Senators,

Thank you, for inviting testimony on the subject of Healthcare.

As a life-long Oregon citizen, member of a large extended Oregon family and an Oregon private sector employer.... I have personal experience and some profound thoughts about our current Oregon health care (sick care?) system.

In my business travels, I have seen first hand, how other countries in Europe, Canada and even China provide superior healthcare at affordable costs.

It is clear to everyone in this room, our current system is unsustainable, inefficient and failing on all current cost-benefit-performance measures, as used by other developed countries.

I have been told, from local law enforcement, local school principals, and our local school superintendent.... "skyrocketing costs of medical insurance (and PERS) are forcing difficult budget decisions TODAY.... and will collapse our ability to provide quality public services within one to two years" !

Everyone in this room understands the unique reasons why?

A quarter of all our healthcare money goes to private... "FOR PROFIT" insurance companies

Even the "non profit" side of the industry fails to deliver quality, transparent, patient centered

care? (i.e. Large \$\$ reserves, admin costs, lack of transparency, etc.)

Doctors are now spending over \$100,000 EACH, every year !

... to pay for insurance and burdensome admin. and regulatory costs!
(Money that is NOT going to patient centered care.....)

US Drug costs are three to four times as much (for the same drug?!*?)

as other countries, from the financial monopoly granted by the US Congress, as a result of the extremely powerful political lobbyists.

(FOR PROFIT Insurance companies, Big Drug companies, hospital industry, etc.)

(The same lobbyists that will resist your efforts to change/ improve our current system)

Ripple effect?

Two thirds of all US personal bankruptcies are medical based?

The average family (of four) medical insurance now EXCEEDS, the after tax take home pay in the US (How crazy is that?)

And yet... a growing number of people live in many areas (Counties) no longer are offered any medical insurance, whatsoever?

Jobless recovery?

85% of all new job creation happens in small private sector companies. (like my own family owned and operated company)

Out of control costs of providing health care as a responsibility of employment are crushing our ability to create jobs. Similarly, these costs threaten the ability to provide services within the public sector. Not to mention the vast lost opportunity from economic activity and lost job opportunities of our next generation?

Everyone in this room understands.....

our current healthcare model and system is **unsustainable !**

The Question is ?

Are you going to lead the way to a more efficient, transparent, single payer (non-profit) health care system?

OR.... Support the current "Status Quo, for profit systems" which are inefficient at providing medical services... BUT VERY EFFICIENT at transferring \$\$ Billions to insurance companies, Big drug companies, medical malpractice attorneys, etc.

OR..... wait..... until we have a complete system collapse?

With all due respect, we are anxious to know?

Best Regards,

Ron Loe
Founder and CEO

Wood Castle Manufacturing

Phone: (541) 754-9304 Cell: (541) 602-4441 | Email: ron.loe@woodcastle.com
Fax: (541) 754-0511 | Web: www.woodcastle.com