

To the Committee:

You have before you a historical opportunity. Oregon is on the verge of taking the concept of Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness to its logical extension and ensuring that health care is included as a fundamental right in our state. Though Thomas Jefferson wouldn't have understood our modern world, he would have had no hesitation in indicating his agreement that in order to be able to have life, liberty, and happiness, every American must have the right to utilize the care they need.

As a Christian, I believe strongly in the ideas expressed by Jesus in his statements that we are obligated to help our neighbors. While there may be a cost associated with the idea of health care as a human right, I am ready, willing, and able to pay that cost to ensure that everyone I see on my daily Max commute to Portland's Hollywood district can see a doctor, get treatment for their illnesses (whether it's a bad case of the flu or cancer treatment), and know that we are doing for them as we would want others to do for us--caring for their basic health needs.

I urge you to pass HJR203 to the Senate floor and for all of you to vote for its passage.

Thank you.

Robert McMonigal