

Thank you to the Joint Task Force for all the work you've done to bring healthcare to everyone in Oregon. I am especially concerned about lower income people whose work as service providers puts them at risk.

Ainsley Saffell, Eugene resident

Sent from my iPhone Hello there,

My name is Chris Smith, I currently reside in Albany, Oregon. I wanted to let you know you how important a single payer healthcare system is to me and our state.

When I was 16 my mom died of lung cancer, upon her death I was stuck with the bill, taking most of what I could have used for college away in any inheritance I would have received. At 17 I started to volunteer as a Firefighter/EMT and I've served our state since then.

In my career of 7 years serving in EMS, I am constantly reminded of our failed healthcare system that values profit over human life. I see fear in patients eyes knowing that their life may be saved by interventions taken that day, but knowing, that they'll never be free of the debt incurred to save their life.

When the U.S. started the social security program we led the world in expanding our social safety net, placing value on human life. Now sadly, most of the world has passed us up on a single-payer healthcare system. But what a triumph it would be for the great state of Oregon, to be the first out of these 50 United States to have a single-payer system insuring all oregonians.

The work that you will be taking apart in will be the most consequential piece of legislation in state legislature history. I myself am a student studying pre medicine and public policy and administration. I have decided that if there isn't a single-payer system there's very little reason to practice medicine as all people deserve healthcare. It would be better for me to work on providing a single-payer system with my time on this Earth then to be treating people who can only afford it. I pray the work that you guys take forward will make it so I can practice medicine instead.

Thank you for your efforts.

Christopher A. Smith