

Dear Chair Bruce Goldberg:

I am a private citizen from Portland.

While there are important social and moral reasons why I support universal health care, today I'd like to address economic concerns.

I have spoken with and read about many people who feel handcuffed to their current jobs, or limited in their employment choices, by the need to have employer-provided benefits. This skews employment, leaves many in jobs that no longer fit their skills or interests, and adds mental stress.

And on the employer side, the resources required to provide benefits affects other economic choices, leading to an inefficient allocation of those resources and no doubt limiting employment in some cases.

It's past time to end the patchwork system and adopt universal health care.

Thank you for your consideration.

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