

To: Oregon Legislature House Committee on Health Care

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HB 2012

Submitted Tom Sincic, MSN, BNE.
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Greeting Chair Salinas and Members of the Committee,

I am Tom Sincic, President of Health Care for All Oregon, a retired Family Nurse Practitioner with experience in rural communities, a tribal community, corrections health and 25 years in a school-based health care.

I am sure you are familiar with Martin Luther King's quote of over 50 years ago:

"Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and inhuman."

It is heartening to know that this committee is looking for paths to address that pervasive injustice.

Although no longer in practice, I still hear nearly daily stories of the injustices of the insurance based system. You are all too familiar with the tragedies of insulin rationing and the accelerated costs when care is delayed because of fear of costs.

I am here to express support for the opportunity and need to bring both individuals and all employers into one public system. Medicaid is such a system that provides comprehensive care with opportunity to focus on prevention and

early care for anyone once enrolled. I hope there will be an opportunity for continuous simple enrollment in this phase. As a provider, I knew exactly how to care for people under this system and patients have no need to delay care or fear the costs since there are traditionally no co-pays or deductibles.

It will be essential that during this phase that there be serious efforts toward improving access by addressing the range of barriers that remain, ensuring transparency; establishing simplicity for patients, providers and businesses; eliminating administrative waste; and bringing public sector employees into this public system.

Even after you pass this, and in spite of best efforts, barriers, challenges and complexities will remain. I am here to tell you that we will then need to move on to the next step. It will be time to create one system from birth to death for everyone that can really address the complexity, costs, and terrible health outcomes that Oregon experiences in this multi-insurance system with all the administrative waste.

We look forward to next steps in the form of SB 770 to create the Health Care for Oregon Transition Commission currently sponsored by 39 legislators under the leadership of Senator Manning. This will put Oregon on the path to what is really

needed--an equitable, affordable, comprehensive, high quality, publicly-funded health care for everyone.