

Chair Salinas and members of the House Health Care Committee:

My wife and I are both Oregon Public School teachers. One of us is currently allowed to opt out of insurance for a little bit of taxable income. Our only insurance plan choices are either Moda or Kaiser. Since I have been diagnosed with Crohn's Disease, there is only one medication, Uceris, that keeps it under control whenever there is a flareup, which is often. Neither Moda nor Kaiser will cover this medication. The cheaper medications the insurance companies will cover do not work for me. My GI Doctor, Rebecca Fausel at Oregon Clinic, agrees with this and thinks that Uceris is the only one I should be using. So in order to have a somewhat normal existence, I need to pay out of pocket \$1200 per month. The money either my wife or I would get from opting out of insurance does not cover this medication completely, but really helps us without going bankrupt. With medications costing so much and insurance companies choosing not to cover them, HB 3075 is a financial savior. If either my wife or myself worked in any other sector in the state, we would not be penalized. Why are teachers any different?.

Bill Rash
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