



Chair Salinas and members of the committee my name is Hollie Murphy and I am an SEIU Local 49 member. I have been a Certified Nursing Assistant for 18 years and currently work at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center in Springfield for the past 8 years. I'm here to today asking you to support HB3076 because there are hard working families still struggling with medical bills.

In 2013, I had to undergo a hysterectomy. I was working at Peace Health Sacred Heart Medical Center and had employer sponsored medical insurance with a high deductible plan. Regardless of having this insurance this procedure ended up costing close to \$10,000 in medical debt. I absolutely could not afford this and was shocked after receiving my medical bill.

I tried to get financial support through the hospital but didn't qualify for charity care because I was making too much. At that time, I was making around \$15/hour which I thought was good until I had an unplanned medical event. I didn't have extra money and as a single mom, I struggled to bring home \$500 a month. I had so much coming out of my checks for my insurance premiums on top of affording necessities such as rent and groceries. If it wasn't for my mom and my sister, I wouldn't have survived.

Because I was unable to afford my medical bills, I started getting calls from the hospital financial department. I told them I was a staff member, but they wouldn't work with me on a monthly bill that I could pay. I then sent to collections and when I told them what I could pay on a monthly basis they told me to not even bother and in 2015 I had to file for bankruptcy.

Just because we have insurance doesn't mean we can afford the medical bills we incur. Everyone who needs charity care should get it; it's not right that we have to pay \$145 per pay check for our health care premiums and we can't even afford to get care when we need it.

I hear stories all the time from my colleagues who have gotten sick and couldn't afford medical bills and they too were denied charity care. I have to ask where is all this charity care money going?

Healthcare is expensive and people are drowning in medical debt we need to do something about this, and it starts with the hospitals doing their part. Please support HB3076.

1-800-955-3352  
MAIN OFFICE

503-238-6692  
FAX

3536 SE 26<sup>TH</sup> AVE  
PORTLAND, OR 97202

@SEIU49  
TWITTER

SEIU LOCAL 49  
FACEBOOK

WWW.SEIU49.ORG