

To Chair Monnes-Anderson and Committee Members:

I have lived in Oregon for ten years and have health insurance from my husband's labor union. So I am not writing with stories of my own battles with health insurance agencies, but instead to tell you that our family is willing to give up our private Medicare Advantage plan in order to participate in Oregon single payer insurance.

The reason for that is that I have been frequently appalled to hear stories from my circle of retired friends who don't get the medical care they need because they can't afford it. Most of them are on Medicare but, as you know, Medicare without supplementary insurance is not enough, and many people who are no longer working just can't afford to pay the premiums.

One example is a friend in her early 60s who bought insurance on the exchanges about five years ago and found out a few weeks later that she had cervical cancer. She is still alive today (which we are thankful for) but the amount of time she has had to spend during her treatment on writing to, begging for care from, and going to mediation meetings with her various insurance companies (which changed each year) to cover the costs of her care is unconscionable. While fighting for her life, she is being nickel and dimed by a pack of pencil-pushers. I hope she prevails but there may come a time for her when fighting these petty battles is beyond her strength. In other words, her insurance company may actually contribute to her suicide.

Please — let's make Oregon an example to the rest of the nation. Let's show them that there is a way out of this nightmare with single payer for Oregon.

Sincerely,

Karen Horn

Ashland