

To Chair Monnes-Anderson and Committee Members:

My name is Bill Whitaker. I live in La Grande and am an active member of the Oregon Rural Action Health Care Reform Action Team. I am a 79-yr-old who believes Oregon must get on the path to Single Payer with HB 770.

About a year ago I was prescribed testosterone to help counter persistent fatigue. The prescription cost so much that after only filling it for two months I was pushed into the "donut hole" in my Part D Medicare Plan. I was told I would need to pay \$800/month out of pocket for this prescription.

This was an outrageous expense for medication I need for my well-being. When I complained to my urologist and asked about alternatives I was given a prescription to be compounded at a local compounding pharmacy. Now I pay "only" \$50/mo (\$600/yr) rather than \$9,600/yr for my medication.

I believe it's time to put an end to the financial and personal burdens of insurance care, to end administrative waste and price gouging by Big Pharma and to make needed care affordable to every Oregonian.

Bill Whitaker

Vice-chair, Oregon Rural Action