

My name is Sonja Grabel. I live in Beaverton. I'm writing today in opposition to SB 770. Please accept my written testimony, as I am unable to attend in person with such short notice.

There is no doubt that we need to reconsider our approach to healthcare and insurance. But, we need to do so in a very measured, thoughtful way, lest we have a debacle, like Care Oregon or "jump from the frying pan into the fire."

I'm deeply troubled at the amount of legislation being fast-tracked through committees with "emergency" clauses. Every single bill proposed lately is an "emergency." And, the most controversial ones are being "fast-tracked" with little notice to citizens. It seems the sole purpose of these emergency clauses is to prevent a referendum. And, the sole purpose of "fast-tracking" is to catch citizens unaware to prevent an opportunity for them to express opposition. This is not how our representative government is supposed to work. Legislators should be working WITH and FOR the citizens, not AGAINST them. These tactics are hand-cuffing and muffling the very citizens you are supposed to be representing. You are removing the very "checks and balances" that were created to protect the public from government overreach.

Outside of my great concern about HOW this bill is being pushed through, my chief concerns about the bill itself is the huge increase in power given to OHA, lack of choice for consumers, and my lack of trust that this will be managed well and within budget. Right now, I can choose which insurance carrier I use. I'm concerned that OHA and the state of Oregon will have too much control over my health care choices.

I want to see lower healthcare costs. I want to see better health outcomes. I want to see greater access to care. We need to have meaningful, deep conversations throughout the community to find the best path forward. This topic deserves the full attention of the citizens and legislators. There needs to be ample opportunity for discussion and understanding. A day notice for a hearing with an emergency clause on a topic of such significance is simply unacceptable use of government power.

Please oppose this bill, in this form. Let's shine a light on the topic and discuss this out in the open.

Sincerely,

Sonja Grabel

Beaverton