

To Chair Monnes-Anderson and Committee Members:

You already know that the Insurance based (profit-based) system we have in the US has left many Americans with neither health nor care. Many Americans are still going bankrupt and losing their homes thanks to an inhumane system. Although the majority of Americans want Single Payer health care system, we don't have highly sophisticated lobbyists to sit at the table for us. All we have is you, our elected representatives. As a single, self-employed mother with a decade of strange head injuries, I struggled through every day. I did not go to very many doctors. I paid out of pocket for those I chose very carefully to help me monitor my health progress. I might not have been so lucky. Many people aren't.

As a Licensed Massage Therapist, I also see (anecdotally) that our system simply does not serve people well. Most doctors don't have the time to make correct diagnoses when it comes to simple musculoskeletal issues. I honestly see more incorrect diagnoses than correct ones. And the exercises they give either don't help, or actually exacerbate the presenting problem. I've been in the field over 10 years and this is absolutely my finding. Ditto for most Physical Therapists. And to add insult to literal injury, insurance companies often deny payment to massage therapists for a variety of legal or completely spurious "reasons". We're doing the heavy lifting for the smallest dime, and then we're often ripped off.

I know that no bill can solve every problem in any system, but SB770 will at least be a leap forward to ending the crippling personal financial burdens of Oregonians.

Please do what we voted for you to do and represent what Oregonians want--get on the path to Single Payer with SB 770.

Thank you very much for your attention and your compassion.

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"Do. Or do not; there is no try." ~ Yoda