

To Senate Healthcare Committee Chair Monnes-Anderson and Committee Members,

My name is Rebecca Elliott. I live in la Grande, OR. I am writing today to urge you to oppose SB 770. I am submitting written testimony as I am unable to attend a hearing with such short notice as we have been given. The drive time between my home and the capitol is five hours minimum.

I am very much in favor of Oregon citizen having access to healthcare and I would love to see lower healthcare costs. I agree that this an important important topic that needs to be addressed, but this bill is not the answer we seek. We need to do this in a more rational, sustainable way. I am concerned about many things regarding this bill, but in regards for brevity, I will just touch on a few. First, the budget impact of this as well as the possibility of this being another Care Oregon disaster. I don't believe our state can sustain another financial blow like that again. Especially in light of the current struggle to manage the budget. I am also deeply troubled by legislation that limits medical freedom, and also by giving the OHA so much control over something so personal as healthcare choice. We should be giving Oregonians more option, but instead, this bill will eliminate them.

I find it very disconcerting how many bills are being put through this year with an emergency clause attached, and also at the extremely short notice the voters of this state are being given for these important, life altering hearings. It robs the citizens like myself that are located so far away of the ability to take part in person, and let our voices be heard in these matters. This is an abuse of our system and it does not reflect well on those who were voted into office to represent us. This is not how our legislative process is supposed to work and is, quite frankly, an abuse of power.

Oregonians are a smart, diverse population. We are not one-size-fits-all and our healthcare should reflect that. Please oppose this bill. Let's take a better look at this topic and find a better solution.

Thank you.

Rebecca S. Elliott