

To Chair Monnes-Anderson and Committee Members,

As a retired registered nurse I endorse SB 770. My career included thirty years in the operating room, 24 of those in Portland's level one trauma operating rooms where I learned that all of us are one banana peel away from total physical, emotional, and financial disaster. I have also in those years assisted in too many amputations of toes, feet, and legs of diabetics. Some of them did not even know that they were diabetics.

Diabetes sufferers in the United States have three times the amputations that Europeans do. This is shameful and unnecessary.

We can have high quality healthcare for everybody and at a price that we can afford. It is not pie in the sky stuff. It is done everywhere else in what we call the civilized world. The United States spends fifty percent more for healthcare than the second most expensive countries, Norway and Switzerland, and they get better healthcare. The United States has higher infant and maternal mortality than Cuba.

The ideal would be a unified national health finance system. The reality of national politics renders this presently impossible. Just as Saskatchewan led Canada to healthcare financial sanity so can Oregon do likewise in the United States.

The USA is the only industrial country with for profit health insurance. We also distinguish ourselves by discouraging people from seeing the doctor with high deductibles. European systems encourage timely medical intervention. It saves lives and money.

The SB 770 commission is an investment well worth making.

-david young, rn (ret)