

To the members of the house,

My name is Ollie Baker, I am a part-time instructor at Clatsop Community College, and I currently do not have health coverage. Essentially, I have had to gamble and bet on myself not getting sick or hurt by pursuing a career that leaves me without healthcare benefits. I've chosen between jobs that would provide me with healthcare, and working in higher education as a part-time instructor. I have had the choice to stay with a job I disliked simply for the benefits, but I decided to be an educator instead.

The current dynamic has put many people like me at a career crossroads. Who knows how many quality people have chosen to quit the education field because they have to choose between having health insurance and being an educator?

I have been blessed with good health, but I definitely need to have dental benefits. Purchasing individual healthcare would limit my ability to buy a home, or continue my own education. I want to continue to bolster my own teaching credentials, but it has to make financial sense to me.