



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 2, 2020

Chair-Representative Andrea Salinas
900 Court St. NE, H-485
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Salinas and Members of the House Committee on Health Care,

Thank you for bringing your health care experience to this committee and your continued work to look out for the health of Oregonians all around the state. If I may draw your attention to concerns I have with the intersection of health care and climate change. The climate bills before us, HB 4167 and SB 1530, are not going to do what we hope they will do. Rather, the passage would only serve as a stumbling block to the already high costs of living for many, including our most vulnerable and our fixed income Oregonians. As a mother to a daughter with asthma, I know full well the triggers as well as needing health care nearby.

Cap and trade legislation would put an undeserved burden on communities already experiencing financial hardships. Adding more cost to household budgets makes me very concerned about those on the verge of poverty – and those already there. We have seen communities struggle all around Oregon, and as the local economies start to decline most health care facilities are forced to pack up and leave. We do not want this pattern to continue but will be a reality if these bills come to pass. Passing a Cap and Trade legislation will not change the effects of Climate Change in Oregon; instead, it will put our communities at risk economically and in turn decrease their access to health care.

I believe we both can agree that freeway congestion and stop and go traffic emissions are detrimental to our health. Interstate 5 is vital piece of infrastructure not only to our economy and freight mobility but to our way of life. In some cases it is vital for access to emergency and ambulance services. With three major interstates crossing through the Portland Metropolitan area, it is a legitimate concern to be concerned of the affects stop and go traffic emissions presents. Fixing our congestion issues with legislation already passed needs to happen immediately, without continued delay and additional cost to the taxpayers, and is a tangible and real option to concerns with public health.

Sincerely,