

May 1, 2021

State of Oregon
House Committee On Health Care

Dear Committee Members,

We support the Hope Amendment, SJR 12.

No one should have to make the choice between health (e.g.: prescriptions or co-pays, etc) and their rent or food for their family. This is what our health care system has come to. We cannot grow and compete in our world today when families are faced with uncertainty about medical expenses and risks. Medical bankruptcies are the leading cause of bankruptcies. The ability to move between jobs or start a business should be the American way; but given our employer-based health insurance and the fear of losing health insurance, is stifling opportunity for Oregonians and all Americans.

Nearly thirty years ago Oregon led the charge with innovations in healthcare reforms and the Oregon Health Plan. Since that time, we have tried and implemented many reforms (patient-centered care, integrated behavioral health, and others) to increase quality, health outcomes and reduce costs. Yet we still have some of the lowest health outcomes of all the industrialized countries of the world and we are the most expensive! We are certainly not getting our money's worth.

Now, its time to step-up once again! Inequities, financial hardships, and numerous barriers, confront us and our health care system. Bold reform is needed and it begins by a commitment to the overall goal-- universal health care for all! In 2017, we traveled to Washington, DC to visit with Representative Walden and his staff regarding the preservation of the Affordable Care Act. At that time we delivered him 1,881 signatures of people in CD2 that were supportive of universal healthcare for all, via a Medicare-for-all system. Today, we know that there are many, many more! The movement toward a Medicare-for-all financing system (socially financed and privately delivered) has gained mainstream momentum.

SJR 12 would be a clear declaration that we will not go back to the failed inequitable systems of the past but instead work to a more inclusive future. SJR is the commitment we need—as Oregonians—to propel us forward into this next era of health care reforms.

We urge you to support SJR 12! Thank you for your time and attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature is 'C. Fuji Kreider' and the second is 'Jim Kreider'.

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