

I am writing to let you know how important it is to support SJR 12. I have been a nurse for 40 years and a nurse practitioner for 14 years. Ask any nurse, we have a health care system that works for some and not others. It is shameful that people often cannot access basic health care. We spend more money on healthcare than other nations and yet we get worse outcomes. The system is broken. In my rural community teachers, day care providers, health care and service workers are often underinsured---they don't get needed care because they have a \$5000 (or higher) deductible. I have witnessed too many employed parents fall through the cracks--they make too much money for OHP but not enough money to afford health insurance deductibles. Small businesses in Oregon cannot insure themselves or their employees and if they do it is catastrophic insurance only. Mental health coverage is even more challenging and access limited due to disparate/carve out coverage. Oregon can lead the nation in healthcare equity. Healthcare is a right not a privilege for select groups. I urge our representatives to act on behalf of ALL Oregonians. Please vote to support this. Thank you. Patricia Barfield, PhD, PMHNP-BC