

I support SJR 12 and I urge you, the distinguished members of the House Committee on Health Care, to do the same. We have too long allowed special interests to control costs with regard to health insurance and medicine. This marketplace approach has led to the current crisis that has priced many Oregonians out of being able to acquire affordable, quality healthcare. Small and medium business owners cannot begin to provide insurance plans for their employees. And many Oregonians who may be covered by employer-based insurance policies often delay or put off getting medical care until it is too late because their budgets are overextended due to high premium costs, large deductibles and co-pays.

The mark of a true civilization is one that ensures the well-being of its citizens. Most of the world's nations with economies similar to ours recognize that ensuring good health for their citizens is a primary responsibility of government, a fundamental value and in the best interest of their countries. I urge you to make Oregon a leader in our country by supporting SJR 12 and pave the way to ensuring that Oregonians have the right to the health care they need. Our state will be richer for it.