

Medical debt and bankruptcy are real. People avoid or postpone preventative care out of fear, and inability to pay, then incur greater costs when treated in the emergency room. Billing practices are so complicated (and outright secretive) that everyday folks can't be expected to understand them without a degree in medical billing. Some of these practices are so disingenuous they would be unheard of in any other industry, yet are commonplace in healthcare. And people often have no choice, as the matter is quite literally life and death.

Modifying the state constitution is a serious measure. Healthcare is a human right, and the fact that it is not yet enshrined in American law as such makes this country an outlier in the "First World." Let Oregon lead the way, by establishing the right for affordable healthcare to all.