

I urge the Committee to support SJR-12, the Hope Amendment. SJR-12 simply adds needed language to the Constitution to establish health care as a human right so that Oregon will continue to lead the way in transforming health care reform in our nation. This measure will certainly be referred to the voters of the state, and they will be the ultimate decision makers on the desirability/need to add this language to our states constitution.

Oregonians who are ill or in crisis deserve high quality care, and should not fear that lack of money or health coverage may mean increasing sickness and death. It is past time to treat health care like roads, fires and education as an essential service to be available to every resident of our state.

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