

I consider myself to be a self-employed musician. Like many of my colleagues in the arts, I find that making a living in this space means a combining countless sources of work and income, from performance, to commissioned work, to private teaching, to teaching in our school systems (both K12 and at the University level). Currently, I'm an adjunct faculty member at three different schools in the Oregon University System.

None of the three schools that I work for provide anywhere near full-time work. And, of course, there are minimal "benefits" in terms of the traditional retirement packages, health care, etc. For the entirety of my career, I've purchased my own individual health care plan, often at a high deductible. Luckily, because I'm relatively young (34), these plans aren't back-creakingly expensive, but they are certainly a major bill each month to deal with.

I firmly believe that the only responsible course of action long-term, for both Oregon and the country, is universal healthcare. This isn't just because I want or need easier access -- it's because the United States is one of the only first-world countries that doesn't provide this to our citizens, and then only country where over half a million people each year go bankrupt from healthcare related costs.

In the absence of universal healthcare, which I would implore you to support, bills like HB 3007 would at least make it nominally easier to get healthcare for employees like me who are currently completely on our own. Sadly, without legislative support, it is clear that the university system on its own will provide only the bare minimum for adjuncts.