

As a citizen and a person of faith, I believe that all Oregonians deserve and have the right to cost-effective, clinically appropriate and affordable health care. As health care costs have risen over the years, thousands have been unable to pay for health insurance and have, therefore, gone without. Others have insurance they paid for but couldn't use because they don't have the money for high co-pays and/or deductibles. When Covid 19 struck, these problems were exacerbated, laying bare the necessity of having access to health care for the preservation of health and even life. The pandemic has also exposed the fragility of employer-based insurance to keep people safe. As thousands of Oregonians lost jobs and their health care, the conclusion is that we need a better way of keeping our citizens healthy and safe than our current patchwork system that is full of holes. After all, the health or lack of health of one affects us all. We have seen the community spread of the virus cause illness, hospitalization and death of people, young and old, the disruption of children's education throughout our state as well as economic disaster for individuals and small businesses. Access to cost-effective, clinically appropriate and affordable health care would have reduced these consequences. I totally support and urge passage of SJR 12.