

Chair Prusak, Vice Chair Salinas & Haydon, members of the committee, for the record, my name is Michael Cojocar. I'm a student at Portland State University, and an intern for Vice Chair Salinas. But I will be testifying on behalf of myself for today.

I am 21 years old, and will graduate at the end of June. With the passing of the Affordable Care Act, children are allowed to stay on their parents healthcare plan until they're 26. However, with both of my parents retiring this year, I will be kicked off my parents healthcare plan at the end of the year, at the age of 22.

The creation of a statewide public option would give me additional options of healthcare coverage for 2022 within the state of Oregon. Additionally, the creation of a public option will be another important step in decreasing healthcare costs across the state, as it would increase competition with for-profit healthcare companies.

Currently, 6%, or around 250,000 Oregonians, do not have healthcare coverage. A public option would be a more accessible option to those uninsured, but might not meet the qualifications of OHP, like myself, and help achieve the goal of universal healthcare coverage within the state of Oregon.

I encourage you to pass HB 2010 to continue the fight for universal single-payer healthcare within the state of Oregon. Thank you.

Michael Cojocar