Submitter: Jamie Adenium

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Health Care

Measure: HB4035

When I was eighteen and attending college at Pacific University, I got really sick around 1am. It was my first time living out of the house and I knew that my mom and I had not had health insurance in years because we could not afford it. I tried to deal with being sick on my own and because of that I passed out multiple times and hit my head each time. Eventually my roommate found me in the hallway and called 911 and our campus public safety. By the time the paramedics arrived, I was a bit more conscious and insisted that they not take me to the hospital in an ambulance. I knew that I didn't have insurance and that we couldn't afford an ambulance ride so I refused to go to the hospital. Eventually I was overruled and they transported to the emergency room in Hillsboro via ambulance. I stayed in the ER for a few hours and then was released with a mild concussion, no reason for why I was as sick as I was, and told to find my own way home even though I didn't have my wallet, glasses, or anyone in the area that had a car. I don't even know why they didn't take me to OHSU because I had obviously received head trauma and that is the only facility in this part of the state that is licensed to deal with that kind of injury. Thankfully they didn't take me all the way to Portland because despite only travelling fourteen miles from my school to the hospital, I was still charged $994 for the ambulance ride alone. I was right that I could not afford an ambulance ride, no one should ever be put in that position again. This is why I think it is so important to have a public option because no one should ever have to argue with a paramedic about not being able to afford emergency care.