

Submitter: Karen Baker

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure: SB704

I encourage this committee to pass SB 704 that would establish and fund a governance board to move Oregon to a Universal Healthcare system so that all Oregonians would have access to affordable care.

Our current system (or lack thereof) of healthcare leaves many in our state uninsured or underinsured. The costs of premiums and deductibles are untenable to many. It seems logical to me that there is a better way to provide affordable healthcare to everyone.

- It would be more efficient for healthcare providers to only bill one entity, verses dozens of different insurers.
 - It is logical to include all types of healthcare (dental, vision, hearing) in coverage—these are parts of our bodies in which bad health leads to devastating consequences.
 - It would be more economical if the force of our state (or US government) could negotiate for the best prices for pharmaceuticals, medical devices and services.
 - It would be fair and equitable if everyone had the same access to healthcare, regardless of their income, age, marital or employment status, size of employer or choice of career?
 - We would all have more freedom if everyone could go to the healthcare provider of their choice because all doctors and hospitals would be “in network”.
- Please pass SB 704 and move our state to a better system of healthcare for EVERYONE!