

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair Goodwin, Vice-Chair Nelson, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly oppose House Bill 2085. The proposed name change from Health Care Cost Growth Target to Premium Cost Growth Target is misleading and ignores the broader implications of healthcare costs on the overall health of individuals and communities.

Healthcare costs encompass much more than just premium costs. The cost of medical procedures, prescription drugs, and other medical expenses are just as critical in determining the overall health and well-being of individuals. By restricting the scope of the program to reducing growth in premium costs, House Bill 2085 ignores these vital aspects of healthcare and fails to address the root causes of rising healthcare costs.

Additionally, this bill overlooks the impact of premium costs on vulnerable populations, such as low-income families, elderly individuals, and people with disabilities. Reducing premium costs alone will not solve the healthcare crisis in our country. It will only provide temporary relief to a problem that requires a comprehensive solution.

I urge the Committee to reconsider House Bill 2085 and consider a more comprehensive approach to reducing healthcare costs that addresses all aspects of healthcare and protects the well-being of all citizens. The health and well-being of our communities should not be sacrificed for the sake of cost reduction.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Devon Lawson-McCourt*

Vida, Oregon