

Submitter: Jo Alexander

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure: SB704

I came to the U.S. in 1974 from the UK, which as you know has a National Health Service, and was shocked by the inhumanity of the system here. My first experience with it was when I accompanied a friend to an ER. He was bleeding heavily from a head wound. But the first thing he had to do was fill out insurance paperwork.

I have been working for health care for all ever since.

I was fortunate to have a job with health benefits, but my partner did not. The only reason we legally married was so that he could get coverage under my insurance. It is ludicrous that these things, and many that are far worse, happen in the richest country in the world. Americans pay more and have worse health outcomes than those in any other developed country. Almost half of all Americans report that they have not got the care they need because of the cost. So much of this cost is spent not on care but on administration. Realizing that ultimately this is a problem that can only truly be solved at the federal level, I nonetheless urge you to do what you can to ensure affordable health care to all Oregonians.