

Submitter: Cynthia Metcalf  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure: SB704

My name is Cindy Metcalf and I have worked in the healthcare industry for over 15 years with 10 of them involving direct patient care. In my many years, nothing was more heart breaking than listening to patients wondering how they were going to choose between affording food or medication, rent or their hospital bill, with tears in their eyes. No other developed country in the world allows people to fear going to the doctor or hospital because it may send them into bankruptcy. From personal experience, I have also been concerned about surprise bills and out of network costs for specialists. As an example, I was told by my insurance company that as I was gowned up and getting ready to go into a surgery, I should use my mobile app to see if the anesthesiologist would be covered in network. Patients should be focusing on their care, not worrying about coverage. A universal system is possible, it will cost the same or less without the undue burden of extra costs (deductibles, copays, out of pocket, etc) that are shifted on to the people. Please consider leading the way for Oregon to become the first state to provide affordable, universal healthcare for everyone.

Thank you.