

Submitter: Pamela Lyons-Nelson  
On Behalf Of: Episcopal Diocese of Western Oregon  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure: SB704

I write to you today as the Chair of the Health Care Task Force of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Oregon, representing 15,000 Oregonians, in re: our strong support for single payer universal health care's SB704 governance board. November 2019 at our state-wide annual meeting of convention, all congregational delegates (voted in by their congregations), approved with a lone abstention, our internal resolution to support single payer health care and join with Health Care for All Oregon, a 501(c)(3), to work for the implementation of SB770 until it actually happens. We are in solid alignment with our National Church which has also passed such resolutions. Since then, our internal health care working group continues to travel around the Diocese to educate in regard to: the deep scriptural, moral, ethical and pragmatic base for our resolution; high levels of racial/ethnic and class exclusion from receiving satisfactory health care throughout the USA and especially our state, along with the abysmal international rankings of our nation's health care outcomes in comparison to the rest of the wealthy, democratic, high tech nations of the world; the disastrous consequences of linking provision of health care to income rather than need, once again a spiritual and ethical morass, and truly reaffirming that health care is a human right.

We expect this committee to fully fund and rigorously support the formation of a governance board fit and able to implement and govern a single payer universal health care delivery system that will oversee the provision of equitable, affordable, high quality, comprehensive, publicly funded, transparently governed care available to every person living and/or working in the state of Oregon for their entire lifespan. S.B.770 passed in June 2019. In November 2022 we enshrined Health Care as a Human Right. Now we need a governance board to make sure this state's intention is brought to fruition. Please do your part to make that happen.

Thank you for your time and attention,  
Pamela Lyons-Nelson, Chair  
Health Care Task Force,  
Episcopal Diocese of Western Oregon