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On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure: SB704

Universal healthcare: Good for the people of Oregon, Good for small businesses, Good for cost-effectiveness.

The current healthcare fiasco is bad for individuals - sole proprietors and employees of small businesses are exploited by health insurers and robbed by exorbitant premium hikes. Business changing healthcare plans and people changing jobs jeopardizes continuity of care. I myself have been under five different health plans in the past five years under three different jobs. Today's workers are more mobile, and many people are in a gig or contract economy. Having to change healthcare providers with every new job jeopardizes continuity of care and people's health.

Good for small business. Small businesses have a difficult time attracting and maintaining employees. A universal healthcare plan would allow small businesses to pay a consistent tax rate rather than spiraling premiums, and attract and maintain employees who would either not join a small business for fear of losing healthcare, or who want continuity with their current health plan.

Good for big businesses. Having consistent taxpayer-funded premiums will make Oregon more attractive for siting large workplaces; businesses will be attracted to Oregon by the promise of stable taxes for healthcare, rather than accelerating premiums. You hear complaints about taxes, but healthcare premiums rise at a much higher rate than taxes or inflation, and the money is gone either way.

The only problem is the rollout - four years is a long time to roll out the plan. Many people need health care NOW - they are not poor enough to qualify for the Oregon Health Plan, but having to pay exorbitant premiums and having to deal with health care bureaucracy saps their time and drains their bank accounts. Two years is a reasonable timeframe, and make sure the processes are funded and established before it goes into effect, unlike Measure 110. Perhaps a reasonable tax on alcohol and marijuana for seed funding?

Some people will whine and cry about "SOCIALISM BAD!", but the current healthcare system is exploitative - with constantly increasing premiums, poor coverage, denial of services until conditions become extreme, and religious organizations replacing science with superstition (Providence, I am looking at you.) Health plans are going to trumpet the horrors of rich Canadians and Australians having to wait reasonable times for elective surgery, but the Canadians and Australians I know think Americans are fools, and unless you're wealthy, you will have to wait for care in the exploitative

American healthcare system.

And people want universal health care - <https://thehill.com/hilltv/what-americas-thinking/412545-70-percent-of-americans-support-medicare-for-all-health-care/>