

Submitter: Antonio Germann
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB704

Chair Patterson and members of the Senate Healthcare Committee,

I submit to you my steadfast support for SB 704.

My name is Tony Germann. I am a rural family medicine doctor practicing for over the last 10 years in Silverton and Woodburn communities. In addition to my role of delivering data to day care, I am clinic director of a Primary Care Community Health Center in Woodburn, Oregon where we serve over 15,000 community members.

SB704 is the next step our state MUST take in obtaining the necessary and role change our state should strive for: To achieve equitable and just access to healthcare for all Oregonians.

Passage of SB 704 puts Oregon on the pathway to evaluate and research how we can attain universal healthcare for ALL of us. This is performing our due diligence to bring in the staff and resources, including leaders in health policy to complete the work of the Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care (SB770) by creating the essential "Governance Board."

The patients in my clinic, as well as the staff and providers, can't wait any longer for this change. This week I lost three providers who just said they "can't practice in this system any longer. They are quitting mid-career or retiring far too prematurely. The last six months I have lost three other providers as well. That is half of my total provider staff--gone in less than a year. They are demoralized by the inequity of our health system. They can't stand the barriers to care and burdens their patients and themselves face due to the inefficiency and profit driven morality they are forced to work in. This is NOT leading to better outcomes. This is a business model that needs to change! If we decide to perpetuate this model, who is going to be there to care for your grandmother, daughter, friend or yourself?

I will refer the committee to a recently well written New York Times article by Dr. Reinhart which provides a succinct summation of a common mentality most providers in our state feel. I know it reflects my feelings! I guarantee it is worth your time to read it.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/05/opinion/doctors-universal-health-care.html>

I entrust with your committee, the responsibility to improve the health of our health "system" by making a tough and courageous, but really rather simple and necessary

decision to pass SB 704.

Sincerely,

Antonio Germann, MD MPH

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