

Submitter: Janice Karpenick
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB704

Good day Senators and staff,

I am writing to support SB704.

I am a retired RN, and worked in nursing for over 40 years. Health care has changed a lot over that time, not all for the better. Although many treatments and diagnostics have improved, health care costs have skyrocketed with ever increasing deductibles that many simply can not afford, if they have insurance at all. I have taken care of patients after surgeries they postponed for years because they did not have insurance or could not afford their high deductibles. Of course, that postponement led to more serious surgeries and more dire outcomes. I have cared for patients who should have remained hospitalized at least overnight after their procedures, but went home the same day because they were not insured and could not afford to stay the night. Health care is a right, and we here in Oregon can lead the way to a better system with single payer health care for all. People should not be bankrupted because of health care costs. People should not lose their homes because of health care costs. We can, and must, do better. In addition to being the right thing to do, it is actually more cost effective to offer a single payer health care system with an excellent program of preventive care rather than our current fragmented system with its multiple insurance companies and inherent inefficiencies.

Please support SB704 - we can do this.