

Submitter: Karen Rippberger  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure: SB704

I am writing in support of friends, family and myself. I'm non-binary, and I want to have access to physicians that I know will treat me with respect and from whom I will not need to hide my identity. I want my dear family members to also get the care and up-to-date health information that they need as queer, bisexual, lesbian, gay, and gender fluid persons. Not matter our sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, we should be able to get accurate information and be treated with dignity and respect.

I would also like to add my voice to those who have no doubt told their horror stories in dealing with and affording health insurance. As they don't provide health, but only bill coverage in certain situations, this coverage is misnamed at best and harmful at worst. The stress involved in dealing with bills from various providers, calling to straighten out bills, lack of coverage, lack of affordability and so on does not promote health nor the ability to plan and budget. We've certainly had our struggles. Oregonians want universal coverage and freedom from the stress of bills we can't understand while under the stress of caring for loved ones, the sleep deprivation associated with doing so, and lack of time to check bills for accuracy. Our communities will be healthier when everyone will have access to quality care, rural hospitals can remain open, and families can rest easy that, no matter what happens, they won't incur medical debt that puts them out on the street.

Government exists to "provide for the general welfare." Since Washington won't do it, let's lead the way here in Oregon and improve the lives of all Oregonians.

It's the compassionate thing to do. It's the right thing to do.