

Submitter: Efimya Kuzmin
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB704

I urge you to pass SB 704, which would establish a Universal Health Plan Governance Board charged with creating a comprehensive plan for implementing a Universal Health Plan. This bill is vital for college students like myself. This past fall, I had to miss class on 3 three separate occasions because I had to travel over an hour away for doctor appointments. Despite having access to Student Health Services (SHS) Student Health services on campus I had to use in-network doctors for coverage. Using SHS would have meant paying out out-of- pocket for costs that are otherwise covered by my private provider.

Other students with chronic health conditions miss much more school than me, or, if they are uninsured, they pay high, uninsured, costs via SHS on campus for such services as routine lab analyses. While SHS provides limited access to doctors visits and telehealth services, students labs are still uncovered and require out-of-pocket costs. The one time I used SHS for a lab, I had to pay over \$200, something that is very unaffordable for low low-income students like myself.

Campus-based health services are not supported by state appropriations. Any increase in services would would involve increased student fees. (My student fees used to support campus-based services currently run \$148.40 a quarter.) The most effective and efficient way of supporting equitable and adequate health care would be through a universal health care plan. Please pass SB 704 to help address health care inequity and improve access to health care in Oregon.