

Submitter: Bing Wong

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure: SB704

I'm a 71 year old senior, retired from a career in healthcare, worked at OHSU and Kaiser Permanent, public and private businesses. My testimony is neutral as I would like to see more information and need the task force to expand on their report.

Healthy lifestyle, regular exercise, checkups and other preventative care is encouraged including keeping vaccinations current must be part of the UHP to reduce costs.

I'm concerned how income taxes will be accessed to retirees like me who have pensions, Social Security, and TSA incomes. I use my PERS benefits for the healthcare package with Kaiser Permanente with the Advantage plan to cover procedures and items not covered by basic Medicare. If Pensions, Social Security and other incomes are not exempt from SB 704 plan. The new Metro and Multnomah taxes accessed for incomes over \$125,000. The prospect of paying a state income tax of 18% is daunting. The example in the task force report is for a household of 4 and 200% above the FPL. I would like to see figures for single and couples retired on Medicare what the income levels would be from Zero to 18% top rate for full disclosure to gauge support for the propose rates for the UHP. People want to see how they will be impacted. The taxes going to the UHP must be equal or lower that the open market health plans. Transparency is needed!

The task force study claims fraud and abuse will be reduced as a portion of the projected 6% administrative cost to run the UHP. The IT system must be robust and not prone to hacks and ransomware as every Oregonian will be in the system with sensitive information. The DMV system that was to connect with other state agencies didn't go well.

A major component of reducing costs is preventative care. COVID-19 infection rates, hospitalization including expensive intensive care, and death were high due mostly to those unvaccinated. The healthcare system was stretched to the breaking point with operating losses to many healthcare providers. Will UHP provide budgeting and funding to providers?

A new agency to manage the UHP has never been tried in any state. Will the task force look at other countries with UHP administration?