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On Behalf Of:
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Measure: SB704

My parents worked their whole lives and had a small savings for their retirement. They had carefully done the math to live their dream retirement and also started a small business in a coastal town and kept busy helping others in their retirement. This all changed when my farther went in for a fairly simple bypass surgery that ended up in a four month stay in OHSU and need for continued care for the rest of his life. My parents survived on medicare and social security while trying to pay hospital bills.

The citizens of the United States fear going to the hospital and even avoid the price of routine visits. We all know that our citizens pay ridiculous prices for our lives when we must go to our hospital and deal with the labyrinthine insurance system. I went to a doctor for a sprained wrist I feared might be fractured and with health insurance, paid \$500 for an ace bandage and 15 minutes of a doctors time. I have one friend who has told me his retirement plan is death because he will not leave his spouse in medical debt. I have neighbors who are seriously considering a move to another country because they fear they will lose their homes or savings if one becomes seriously ill. One of the biggest problems in our country is that money is more important than human lives and it is sad that people are dying because they cannot afford basic medical care or are afraid to lose the everything they have built in their lives.