

No on SB704  
No to Universal Healthcare

Do not allow this state to continue down a disastrous path of Universal Healthcare, including setting up a Universal Health Plan Governance Board.

MORE government takeover is rarely to answer, especially by the Oregon State government. This is just one more example of our state's transfer of money from those who work for it to those who don't care to be a contributing member of society. I want to see that those who are unable to care for themselves get the care they need. But we are already doing that. Have you been to an emergency room lately? Any argument that there isn't already access to healthcare for every Oregon citizen (and non-citizen) falls flat on its face. I have been to an emergency room within the last year and waited hours while staff assessed those waiting and addressed their needs according to medical necessity and urgency. The impending longer waits alone aren't the complaint. Continuing to have the working class pay for the "I don't care" class to the point that it impinges on **my** right to happiness and good health is the problem.

If this state heads down a Universal Healthcare system, then its working citizens (yes, WORKING citizens) will:

- **Pay more.** I put zero credibility in the September 2022 Final Report as related to anticipated cost. When the state does ANYTHING, it costs more! Quoting the report, "The Task Force also assessed examples of revenue strategies based on the assumption that funding will come from existing sources, such as federal and state funds for Medicare and Medicaid. Oregon will need new revenues so that out-of-pocket costs, including premiums, deductibles, and co-pays, are eliminated."
- **Get Less.** Given our State's focus on providing services to the "underserved", especially those with certain skin colors, I have zero doubt that services will be provided based on skin color with certain skin colors waiting longer or not being served at all out of a sense of "reparations". That is illegal and immoral.
- **Kill Oregon's business and taxpayer base.** The study identifies a scheme that increases taxes significantly for all taxpayers. This will drive businesses and employees like me out of this state. I won't be able to afford to work. And my employer won't be able to afford to employ me. Between CAT, impending tolls, and this tax, I might as well retire and leave OR. We already see the the evidence in education. Despite more money from citizens and businesses, our schools are still failing. That's on YOU.

Although this bill only establishes the Board supposedly needed to set up the system and you might want citizens to believe that there is still an opportunity to provide input on this system, I am beyond skeptical. Having gone through the pandemic and trying to keep a job and keep my staff gainfully employed, this state had a "power grab" mentality led by then Speaker of the House and now Governor. This state government thinks they know what is best. But it was **despite** this state that I still have a job through the pandemic, not because of this state.

If Oregon heads down a path of healthcare takeover, then all of the current negativities of Portland (no sense of order, ignoring bad behavior, and paying money-grabbers with money from those who have) will ooze across the state so that WORKERS will pay for those who just don't care about society. Watch the eastern counties leave and watch the Willamette Valley follow!

I would hope that our leader class would not be so blind as to see the absolute folly in this plan. Remember Healthcare sign ups just a few years ago? \$400M spent and nobody signed up? Remember CRC? \$450M spent and still citizens using a failing bridge.

**I implore you to vote NO on this next giant train wreck.**

Karen Tatman  
Salem, OR