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On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB704

A few examples where lack of comprehensive health insurance affects the well being of Oregonians:

- The lack of Emergency Room Physicians in many communities makes a distressing and scary situation even worse. I have heard from friends about the financial impact of their ER experience. Many waited for hours to be seen, briefly met with a physician or nurse, received limited services and were discharged. It was common to receive a bill in the following weeks for thousand's of dollars for this unsatisfactory ER service. What did my friends have in common? No health insurance to cover the cost of care.
- Young people want to start a family but don't have health insurance for pre-natal, delivery and post-delivery care for mother and infant. This affects both the young couple and their family members who want to grow their loving family.
- On occasion, middle aged people sell their home to pay medical bills and then need to move into the home of an adult child.
- Some people choose not to continue with medical treatment when the outcome is unknown and the cost may bankrupt their spouse after their death.

The Universal Health Plan beginning in 2027 will positively address these and other situations where quality of life for Oregonians is affected by the availability of an affordable and equitable healthcare system.

Thank you.