

2.13.2023
Ann Detweiler
287 Warren St N
Monmouth, OR 97361

Bill SB 704, Senate Committee on Health Care:

I am writing today to ask for legislation that truly provides not just insurance but actual ACCSS to health care.

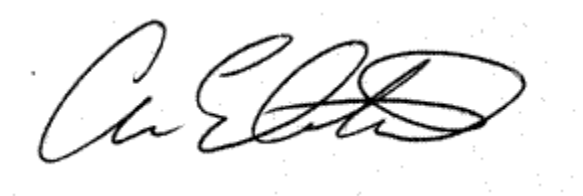
I have been trying to address an undiagnosed/non-specific autoimmune disorder causing muscle wasting, fatigue, shortness of breath, vertigo and dozens of other symptoms since being assigned BP medications 8 years ago. The symptoms interfere with my ability to find work in my field, horticulture where many jobs include physical strength or many other low wage jobs which require an 8-hour shift of physical exertion.

Because my condition has not yet been diagnosed I do not qualify for Disability. I have paid thousands of dollars over the past decade through the ACA Marketplace but can't afford to pay both the premium and the deductible and the copays. When I have gambled an unaffordable \$600 or \$900 or \$1200 on a specialist's appointment, they have each looked at me and said some version of "Yes, I can see you've got a problem, the autoimmune markers are there, the symptoms are obvious, but we can't pin it down to a particular disease checkbox. Here's your bill for today's appointment. Would you like us to refer you to another specialty?"

I hope today you will each take responsibility for a serious look at how current drives to "Get everyone insured" ignores the crushing reality that owning an insurance policy is not equivalent in so many cases to having any access to care. A free ride to a medical appointment doesn't ensure you can actually afford the appointment in the first place. An insurance policy, however low the premium, does not guarantee access to healthcare.

I am neutral about Bill SB 704 since I don't have faith that this baseline issue of access will be addressed due to the loose wording of the bill and the majority of healthcare professionals with vested interests comprising the board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann E. Detweiler", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Ann E. Detweiler
541.979.0885