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

I support a single payer health care system for our entire country and hope this committee will study and plan for the chance that Oregon is the first state to do this. In Canada one province started it and eventually citizens understood it was the way. This is about money and about population health and individual health. The US is known to have very poor health care and life expectancy outcomes when compared to other industrialized and wealth nations.

Implementation will be resisted by those currently reaping immoral profits. Moda Health denied my brother an MRI his neurologist had ordered and he paid for it himself.

When later that day the MRI was read, he had an abscess in his spine that left untreated could have left him paralyzed or worse suffocated for lack of lung function. He was summoned to the ER that day and hospitalized with IV antibiotics for months. This previously skiing fitness buff used no drugs. This is my family example of care denied.

It will take years to make universal health care a reality. We must educate many primary care providers, this takes educational support such as graduate school paid for current RNs willing to become advanced practice nurses. It will take similar efforts in preparing mental health care providers. And it will take regulation of drug manufacturers: it is a hopeful sign of the future that this has begun by control of the price of insulin. It is a sign that the federal government is starting to recognize basic needs in health care.

But we cannot wait for problems to be solved from the top down, we have to as a state show problem solving and leadership. Creating a comprehensive plan will show us what needs to be done. Then we can start.