

Submitter: Quentin Kanta

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure: SB704

I am writing in support of SB 704. As a young person navigating adulthood, the specter of finding and keeping health insurance has been the source of many headaches and spilled tears. I am lucky to call myself a proud union member, but for the millions of Oregonians who aren't fortunate enough to be union members, health coverage is far from a guarantee. For those of us who are union members, we would love to see the responsibility for health insurance guarantees removed from contract negotiations. This would free us up to bargain over wages and working conditions, rather than spending so much time negotiating whether or not the employer will fully cover our insurance expenses. In a just society, the government would guarantee healthcare for all its residents, as is the case in the vast majority of developed democracies. Oregon can lead the way for the federal government to implement a single-payer healthcare system in the future. Every Oregonian who goes untreated and without care because of the steep expenses of our for-profit healthcare system is a policy choice; the State of Oregon has a very good opportunity to guarantee living standards far beyond what any other state offers and we should be proud to seize that opportunity. Single-payer healthcare now!