

Submitter: Brian Denning  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure: SB704

My name is Brian Denning, I am a resident of Portland, Oregon; I am also a rank-and-file member of Teamsters Local 162, and I am in favor of establishing a statewide Single-Payer health care system in Oregon.

Nearly every developed nation with Single-Payer health care systems has lower costs and better outcomes than our current broken system of rationed, expensive, for-profit health insurance. All people deserve access to health care. Thousands of deaths each year will be prevented by implementing Single-Payer in Oregon.

Single-Payer health care saves money. Single-Payer health care means no one has to go without health care or solely rely on expensive, late stage emergency interventions that strain the capacity of care providers. Single-Payer outcomes for patients are better, in study after study. Hospitals can spend less on billing departments and droves of staff whose main focus is knowing the byzantine multitude of various health insurance plans and rules and barriers. Single-Payer has much lower overhead than any private health care system, in every example.

As a union member I want health care to be a given that all people have, and not a bargaining chip when it comes time to bargain a fair contract. I want myself and my union siblings to focus instead on bargaining great working conditions and good pay. I want employers to be freed from the burden of administering and overseeing health care and focus on their core missions- Single-Payer makes that a reality.