

Subject: Constituent Comment Supporting SB704

Submitted By:

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I strongly urge SUPPORT for SB704. I will relate just two brief anecdotes showing how health care has fundamental, foundational importance for not only healthy living of individuals, but a healthy thriving economy and a functioning society at large. Healthy individuals are fundamental to a healthy society.

My personal story is one of long term chronic visual impairment that now limits my mobility, independence, and ability to earn. The condition was aggravated by treatment gaps, caused by job-loss and work dependent insurance. Significant, and avoidable sight-loss had occurred before I qualified for Medicare.

The second instance is the case of our tenant who incurred multiple calamities, including a compound fracture from a work-related fall for which there were unexplained problems with Workman's Compensation.... The fall and broken arm were followed by a vehicle crash with an uninsured motorist, in which our tenant suffered serious injuries, incurring medical and legal costs, which cascaded into rent delays, and our troublesome experiences with the Oregon Emergency Rental Assistance Program (OERAP).

Many of the costs of these occurrences would be alleviated by this legislation. SB704 is needed now so that Oregon will show the way in providing health care for all Oregonians!