

Submitter: LORI BULLIS  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure: SB704

To the Senate Committee on Health Care,

I support SB704, the establishment of a Universal Health Plan Governance Board. I have been a longtime supporter of Universal Health Care for all Oregonians, beginning with Betty Johnson and Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates (MVHCA).

Access to good quality health care (physical and mental) needs to become a right, not a privilege, just like education, food, clean water, clothing, and shelter. During my lifetime I have witnessed too many people, coworkers, friends, and family, who choose between purchasing life-sustaining prescriptions such as insulin and/or blood pressure medication and buying food or paying their heating bill.

Because of the expense, many Oregonians are choosing NOT to visit the emergency room or urgent care, call an ambulance, put off a doctor's visit, or seek mental health treatment.

Instead of enjoying their hard-earned retirement, many of my retired coworkers work part-time or full-time to pay for health insurance and their prescriptions. Many of my current coworkers are putting off retirement because they cannot afford health care premiums and the cost of prescriptions on what will be their retirement income, regardless of PERS.

Establishing a Universal Health Plan Governance Board is an essential first step in establishing and enacting Universal Health Care for all Oregonians. Providing Universal Health Care is a responsible and humanitarian, ethical thing to do, to enact.

Let us, we Oregonians once again be the leader of the pack with the establishment of a Universal Health Plan Governance Board, the enactment of Universal Health Care for all Oregonians.

Thank you.  
Lori Bullis