

Submitter: Susan Bender Phelps  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure: SB704

I have been self-employed for 20 years of my working life. During those years, I have had to pay full price for my, and my family's health insurance. It was always a daunting task to find affordable coverage. And every time insurance rates went up, they never went down, we had to look for affordable coverage all over again. Two jobs I worked were union jobs. Again, every time insurance costs went up - 10% or more, our contracts had to be renegotiated. The time it takes away from productivity is huge. The wrenching of one away from trusted providers whenever new coverage was negotiated or necessitated was awful. I was lucky, I never actually had to go without coverage at all. But there were years, when the coverage was expensive and inadequate. Everyone should have the right to health care. Employment should not be a prerequisite to receive it. PLEASE, pass this bill. Give every Oregonian the opportunity to receive affordable medical care, no matter their income, their parents' or their own employment status. Thank you!