

Submitter: Keith LaHaie  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure: SB704

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 704  
SUBMITTED 02/15/2023

Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care:

We implore you to reject SB 704 and insure that it does not pass out of Committee. We understand that the purpose of this bill is simply to establish a Health Care Governance Board. However, it is clearly evident that the objective of the Governance Board is to force universal healthcare on all Oregon residents, whether they want it or not. That objective is unacceptable to us, and the best way to make sure that objective is not met is to insure that the Board is not established in the first place.

Apparently, the proponents of state-run universal health care believe that health care is a "human right" - that it is an entitlement that should be available to all without any consideration for those who are tasked with providing that care. Are we entitled to assume that we have a "right" to the labor of others? That's a ridiculous premise. We understand that there are many people who don't have access to healthcare, and the state is already providing and subsidizing care for many of those folks. We can certainly do better, but forcing every resident on to a state-run universal healthcare plan is not the answer! We can't afford it in any case!

In our view, the Oregon state government is inept – even incompetent in many areas. From the long lines at the DMV, to the failed rollout of the Cover Oregon website, to the drug cartels operating with impunity, to the thousands of mentally ill and drug addicted derelicts living on the streets in the urban areas of the state – it's evident to anyone who can see. With this track record of failure, it is clear that Oregon has no business being in the health care business. That potentiality frightens us immensely.

At the same time, the state has decimated the Oregon's health care industry with its misguided and destructive COVID vaccination mandates. Can you imagine the exodus will occur if universal healthcare is implemented? What medical professional in their right mind will want to work under such a state-run program? Just look at the difficulty Medicare patients already have. Speaking of mandates, who would not believe that universal healthcare won't be encumbered with mandates of all kinds?

My wife and I are blessed to have excellent health care coverage, and my wife will become eligible for Medicare this year. We are very happy with our coverage and

the options it provides us. With that said, Oregon needs to LEAVE OUR HEALTHCARE ALONE. We do not want any form of state-managed health care. We do not want to pay the extortionate levels of taxation that will be required in order to pay for the monstrosity you intend to create. We're envisioning the shortages and long wait times that Canadian and UK citizens experience – ON STEROIDS!

Yes, Measure 111 passed by one percent. ONE PERCENT. That means that half of the citizens in this state OPPOSE the establishment of a state-run health care system. And yes, a majority of the testimony submitted thus far is in support of SB 704. However, a review of the testimony in support – a majority of which was submitted by Portland-area residents – shows that it is almost without exception based on the flawed assumption that Oregon government will actually succeed at implementing and managing a very complex and expensive universal health care system. We feel strongly that that trust is misplaced.

And of course, this bill includes another abuse of the “emergency clause,” which is there only to insure that the People have no recourse if the bill does pass. The absence of state-run health care does not represent any sort of emergency. The sponsors of this bill are just shameless in that respect.

Please reject SB 704 and make sure that it does not see the Senate floor.

Thank you for your consideration.

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