

Submitter: David Smythe
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB704

The people of Oregon have an opportunity with SB 704 to be a leader on healthcare issues in the country by implementing universal care. Not only for the medical and financial wellbeing of every Oregonian, but as a mark of pride for our state, we must pass this legislation to care for our neighbors. When Oregonians aren't stressed about affording to obtaining healthcare, they are better workers, better citizens, and better people. When Oregonians don't risk losing healthcare when they lose their job, they are free to move more efficiently through the labor market. The industrialized world has had this issue figured out for decades and decades. It is time our State (and our Country) take our health into our own hands and pass SB704.

Homelessness is a massive issue here in Oregon and medical debt plays a role in most bankruptcies in Oregon. If we can limit the degree to which people are going into massive debt just to stay alive and healthy, we will have more people who can make their house payments, pay their rent, and keep themselves economically stable and off the streets.

Oregon has seen a rise in petty crime. We have known for decades that poverty is a massive factor in crime. Less medical bills means less poverty means less crime.

Nearly every societal problem is alleviated by the members of that society being happy, healthy, and financially secure. This healthcare plan can move us toward that future.