

Submitter: Jennifer Sprague
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB704

I support SB 704, because we need to continue the excellent work done by the SB770 (2019) Joint Task Force on Universal Healthcare which concluded their work last year (2022). The Task Force's recommendation to create a Governance Board for a single-payer health care system for our state is necessary and urgent. Oregonians are suffering and dying unnecessarily, because they can't afford health care. A single-payer system would not dictate which health care providers an Oregonian could see; it would create MORE options for Oregonians to receive health care closer to them. The state would not be providing health care; it would be the SINGLE payer for services. This would save countless hours of administrative billing work that medical offices have to pay for now, because they would only have to deal with one payer.

My sister, and two of my sisters-in-law are nurses on the front lines of health care. I have heard countless stories of patients who can't get the health care and medications they need, because they can't afford it. This is reprehensible in the wealthiest nation in the world.

SB704 will not raise taxes. The details of a single-payer health system in Oregon have not been worked out yet; that is what a Governance Board would do. Oregonians needs this. Oregon can do this. Please pass SB 704.