

Submitter: Rebecca Schoon
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

As a professor of public health, I research and teach on comparative health systems. I urge you to fund the Universal Health Care Governance Board outlined in SB 1089 (formerly SB 704). While health care costs in the U.S. have already reached crisis proportions, universal health care systems are proven to be significantly cheaper on a per capita basis while providing better aggregate health outcomes. Under universal health care, people see doctors earlier and can prevent or treat health conditions at earlier stages. This type of care is far less expensive than when care-seeking is delayed (often due to cost) or when the un/under-insured access care via the emergency room. The administrative efficiencies of universal health care systems are also enormous and system-wide. Moving from a morass of different billing codes and reimbursement rates to a single, standardized set of codes and rates streamlines bureaucratic processes and minimizes paperwork. Adequately funding the Governance Board will, most importantly, make our state a leader in ensuring health equity, while offering significant cost savings in the long-term. The Governance Board must be adequately funded in order to develop the optimal structure for delivering universal health care to Oregonians.