

Submitter: Ellen Burns
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SB1089

April 10, 2023

Members of the Senate Committee on Rules

I am writing in favor of Senate Bill 1089. Some years ago my brother was a college student working as a night clerk at a hotel. He developed an infection secondary to a hereditary neurologic condition but had no health insurance so did not seek prompt treatment. His condition deteriorated and he became septic and was hospitalized. He received excellent care and recovered. Happily, his hospital bill was paid for through the non-profit hospital's charity care program.

A happy ending BUT, if he had had health insurance he could have been seen at the onset of the infection and perhaps prescribed an oral antibiotic. If he had had health insurance, he could have had treatment at a doctor's office and not the emergency room. If he had had health insurance, he could have avoided developing a systemic life threatening illness requiring hospitalization and extensive care. If he had health insurance his education, his job, and his life would not have been disrupted so severely. If he had had affordable health insurance the burden of forgiven debt on the hospital and the community would have been less- if any at all.

Universal health care makes sense for the wellbeing of the individual and for the wellbeing of the community. It makes fiscal sense for the individual and the community. It makes no sense that a family or an individual can "fall off the cliff" into an uninsured space because of loss of a job, or aging out of a parent's health care provider, or working for an employer who does not offer healthcare. SB 10899 is the critical next step needed for Oregon to become a leader in an affordable and equitable healthcare system.

The Senate Committee on Healthcare recognizes the need to move forward on a universal healthcare system, following the mandate of the citizens of Oregon who have declared that healthcare is a right. I ask that you vote to move SB 1089 forward.

Ellen Burns

7550 Charolais Ct.

Gladstone OR 97027