

Submitter: Lauri Hoagland
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SB1089

I am in support of SB 704. The people have spoken in Oregon regarding their definition of Health Care when Measure 111 passed last fall. They want affordable, clinically appropriate and cost effective care for all residents of Oregon. SB 770 Task Force has spent the last three years working on a plan that will do exactly that! The next step in this process is SB 704.

I have worked as a Nurse Practitioner in health care for the last 41 years. I have attempted to provide high quality care to every patient. This has been impossible to accomplish because of the many barriers that sit between the patient and the care they need. These barriers are complicated rules which change often without explanation and affect each patient uniquely based on their personal circumstances. The rule can be emergency only care for uninsured patients, in this instance they wait until a crisis and are often forced to treat chronic illnesses like diabetes, epilepsy and congestive heart failure in the Emergency room. It can be denial of insurance coverage for a medication, an important screening test or home health support after hospitalization. Peoples' lives change with age, work, income and disability. Care changes as circumstances change. How can we promote health without dependability? I cry to think of the many patients who are forced to wait for an answer from an insurance company before getting life saving treatment or are faced with a decision about food on the table for family versus health care or can't see a specialist without a monetary deposit they don't have. People are dying because of our current system. We can make changes!! Please pass this bill.