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On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SB1089

As a young adult, I want a future where healthcare doesn't depend on your employment or income level. Universal healthcare would allow Oregonians to make career changes, start their own businesses, obtain higher education, or be there for their families without having to worry about whether they will be able to get the healthcare they need or deal with changing coverage while in the midst of other life changes. These changes in coverage can also force people to leave providers that they are established with due to that provider no longer being in network, causing added stress and gaps in care.

I am fortunate to be covered by Oregon Health Plan at this time; while this benefits many Oregonians, unfortunately not all providers will accept this and those who do will often not be accepting new patients who have that coverage. How you get your healthcare coverage shouldn't determine which providers you can see. This is especially difficult for Oregonians in the more rural parts of the state who don't have ample choices of providers nearby and have the extra burden placed on them of having to travel further to see providers who are in network, which can cause care to be delayed or simply not happen.

Oregonians would live healthier, happier lives if we all had continuous access to healthcare, regardless of changes in employment or income.

Furthermore, the for-profit healthcare system is an overcomplicated mess. Concerns over administrative costs are often voiced when discussing universal healthcare, but just because of a small error I have had to make nearly a dozen phone calls to three different offices in order to sort out an issue with my vision coverage that I get through my employer, and those offices have had to call each other as well. If you combine the time spent by everyone involved in this, it has taken hours to deal with -- not just my time, but the time of multiple paid employees. This time and money could be better spent!

Support SB 1089 for a healthier, more efficient Oregon.