



Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE, S-413
Salem, Oregon 97301

February 18, 2019

Re: Oregon Senate Bill 703

Dear Chairman Prozanski and Members of the Committee,

Our names are Christopher Sealey and Andrew Hoppin, professional technologists who, in 2017, co-founded CoverUS (<http://coverus.health>) – a mobile health platform that aims to put patients at the center of their health data value chain as a means to make healthcare more affordable for everyone, everywhere.

We are writing to provide the Committee with context as it deliberates on Oregon Senate Bill 703.

Andrew and I met in 2008 as executives in the New York State Senate, where we led constituent outreach and technology, and worked together to open up legislative data for all New Yorkers. Prior to working at the Senate, I was a Vice President of Housing Works, an organization serving HIV-positive homeless populations. From 2010-2017, I held executive roles at economic think tanks – first as a Director at the Peter G. Peterson Foundation and later as the Chief Operating Officer of the Institute for New Economic Thinking. Collectively, these experiences have helped me appreciate how profoundly economics affect our health and how our health affects our economy.

Today, 37 percent of Americans cannot afford an unexpected \$100 medical bill without going into debt¹, and 64 percent of patients report having delayed or avoided seeking medical care at least once in the past year due to the cost². This results in deteriorating health for individuals and contributes to inefficiencies in our healthcare system, where by some estimates, one out of every three dollars is wasted³. At the same time, de-identified patient health data is being bought and sold by third parties for billions of dollars each year.

CoverUS believes that patient consent and participation can help further life-saving medical innovations in powerful new ways. While we appreciate the effectiveness of existing medical research practices, we urge the Committee to remember that every byte of patient data is derived from a real-life human experience, and that patients should be part of this value chain. Research methods that are supported by patient consent can give the medical industry an opportunity to engage people directly for more clarity on their health, capturing valuable “real world evidence” best provided by engaged patients.

While community and research industry impacts must be considered, we believe that moving towards a more a reasonable level of patient agency over their personal health data, and the opportunity to participate economically in the value of this data, would be in the best interest of all Oregonians. Our evolving RESPECT framework (<http://coverus.health/respect>) represents our ongoing effort to develop an approach to governance of personal health data that balances these complex considerations.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Christopher Sealey in black ink.

Christopher Sealey, Co-Founder

Handwritten signature of Andrew Hoppin in black ink.

Andrew Hoppin, Co-Founder

¹ <https://amino.com/blog/survey-shows-americans-are-seriously-worried-about-healthcare-costs/>

² <https://www.carepayment.com/new-carepayment-research-shows-americans-cant-afford-medical-bills/>

³ <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hblog20180530.245587/full/>