

To: Senate Committee on Health Care

Re: SB 770-1 as Amended

Date: April 1, 2019

From: Tom Sincic, RN-E, MSN, President Health Care for All Oregon

Greetings Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee.

Martin Luther King said “Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.”

I am Tom Sincic, a nurse, and President of Health Care for All Oregon representing 33,000 who seek a change from a failed yet costly insurance care system to a health care system.

[After Miscarriage Come the Bills](#). So goes the story of 32 year old Amanda in an article 4 days ago in Life—Parenting. There was daily bleeding and no longer a fetal heartbeat at 9 ½ weeks. “Amanda received a bill for the anesthesia, surgery and operating room. Amanda — who works in insurance herself — has coverage, and all of her providers were in-network. But she still had to pay roughly \$2,000 out of pocket.” An unexpected expense.

One week ago, this Committee and I sat and listened to compelling testimony on bill after bill informing this Committee of the complexities and failures of the current system. All seeking a pathway to change.

Together, we heard the testimony and saw [the slides](#) on [SB 889](#) presented by Jeremy Vandehey of the Oregon Health Authority. A bill to trying to contain the costs and declaring an emergency.

Together, we heard and saw the figures on how we spend twice as much and still get poor health outcomes. We saw slides on waste in the system led by unnecessary services and administrative waste. We saw, as in Amanda’s case, the unpredictability of costs. We heard about the inability to control them.(Thanks to Jeremy for this truth telling display.)

Together, we heard desperate pleas in testimony on [SB 137](#) to do something about access to behavioral health service. Where Oregon, as you know, ranks worst in the country in prevalence of mental illness.

Together, we heard compelling testimony regarding [SB 900](#) about the out of control profiteers in the kidney dialysis business.

We heard recommendations to do something about skyrocketing costs, access to mental health care, and health care profiteers..

I request that the March 25, 2019 testimony on these three bills be included as a part of today’s record along with my testimony.

- Isn’t it time to focus on providing care instead of denying it?
- Isn’t it time to stop administrative waste.
- Isn’t it time to take the profit out of health care so children are not rationing their insulin.

- Isn't it time to reduce this costly burden on Oregon businesses?
- Isn't it time to bring equity into our health care system and stop forcing people to choose between food and health care?

How long must Oregonians wait?

Yes, it is time to face the truth. We have an emergency.

Oregonians want a real fix these problems which is a Health Care for All Plan. The one that the Universal Health Care Commission as established by SB 770-1 Amendment will research, take public input on, and bring back recommendations for to this legislature.

Let's move forward, the Oregon way, with SB 770 as Amended.

I am a community health nurse and I approve this message.

Tom Sincic, MSN, RN-E, FNP-Retired

President Health Care for ALL Oregon

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Everybody In! Nobody Out!

[Health Care for All Explained Short Video](#)