

To Chair Salinas and other members of the Senate Committee on health care:

I am a student at PSU's school of social work with many years of experience working in case management amongst people with severe mental health challenges who experience physical health problems that impact their wellbeing. I am writing in support of SB 765 because I believe it encourages whole-person preventative care that is the essence of good medicine.

I have witnessed the negative health outcomes resulting from myopic siloing of funds and efforts to save up-front costs. In addition to increasing reliance on extremely expensive hospital and skilled-nursing treatment, insurers are regularly sending patients the message that their health is unimportant unless it becomes a crisis. I have often seen ways that efforts at cost-saving up front result in horrendous outcomes for patients and more expensive care that does less than could have been achieved earlier on.

Often, prioritizing short-term savings over long-term costs, denying coverage for conditions earlier on, and scrimping on needed medications is done neither for economic, healthcare, or moralistic reasons, but is due to the separation of these decisions from their consequences. This law seeks to reduce some of these separations.

While scarcity may induce those authorizing services to jealously guard their individual pots of money, this will never be cheaper, more effective, or least cruel. Please support the passage of SB 765 to affirm that Oregonians are of value before their situation becomes a crisis.

Sincerely,

Deidre Gordon

Portland Oregon