

Evan Burton

HD 44

Mt. Hood Community College

Chair Doherty and members of the House Committee on Education:

My name is Evan Burton. I am 59 years old, married for 7 years, and a part time instructor at Mt. Hood Community College (MHCC) in Gresham, Oregon. I have been a part time instructor at MHCC for 15 years, and 5 years ago I became PERS eligible. I would like to ask for your support on House Bill 4146

In an effort to demonstrate the need for this legislation, I would like to share with you a slice of my personal as well as institutional history.

Due to changes to the MHCC health reimbursement two years ago, and because I had some seniority given the number of years I have taught at MHCC, I became one of 16 part time instructors eligible for a \$250 a month health insurance stipend. Around the same time, my wife had changed jobs and I became eligible for a health plan through her employer, which would cost \$140 a month. It was a slightly better Kaiser plan than was available through MHCC, but it was a plan I still couldn't afford to use. The deductible and copays were far out of our budget. Because both options were roughly the same, I went with my wife's plan so I could free up a little money for another deserving part-time faculty who didn't make the first cut.

Two years ago in January, one of my hips gave way. I fell backwards and hit my head on the hinge of our closet door. My wife called 911 against my advice—I was very concerned about the cost. I tried to convince my wife, the fire department EMTs, and the AMR ambulance folks I could take care of it myself. I relented and was taken by ambulance to Emanuel Hospital where I turned down a CAT scan and the placement of four staples in my head. Again, I was worried about the eventual cost. I was treated with gauze and tape and rolled out into a hallway and eventually released to my wife's care.

Now, our household is looking at a \$16,000 ambulance bill, a \$19,000 emergency room visit, as well as a \$500 dollar payment to the emergency physician on call. My health insurance plan covers none of this. I'm not sure how we are going to pay these bills.

For most of my adult life I have given much to the neighborhoods where I have lived, to the city I love, to the state where I was born, and to the wonderful community college where I work part time. It would be nice to get something in return with the passage of HB 4146.