

May 2, 2021

TO: Co-Chairs Prusak, Hayden, Salinas and members of the **House Committee on Health Care**

From: Rose-Ellen Hope

Giving Oregon voters the opportunity to decide about updates to the Oregon Constitution that would incorporate The **Hope Amendment** declaring healthcare a fundamental right is desirable, and would enshrine Oregon values. Both the individual and society as a whole benefit. A prime example is the current pandemic.

At the same time, the state should encourage costs in line with people's earning capacity, not fear of bankruptcy. Examples include negotiating drug prices and eliminating surprise billing. There are plenty of ways to save money. The state has a well-established means to identify legitimate practitioners. There is no need to pay insurers to determine network providers. The emphasis needs to be on care, not industry and insurance.

I urge your passage of SJR 12.

(Rose is a retired pharmacist.)