

Hello, my name is Tony Germann and I am a resident of West Linn, OR and community member of Woodburn, OR where I serve as a rural family medicine physician and medical director of Salud and Pacific Pediatrics medical clinics.

On behalf of my patients, family, friends and community I am advocating we take this bold step to outline our preferences and priorities in the state of Oregon drawing a line in the sand that we support equitable access to health in this state. I am distressed by our current system of health and SJR12 empowers the public to make a decision on their beliefs and priorities regarding healthcare delivery in our state.

Presently, I'm disillusioned at our convoluted and inefficient system. I'm envious of other nation's health outcomes. I struggle with the fact that every other industrialized country in the world assures healthcare to their residents. Our healthcare is anything but equitable and certainly growing less accountable to its citizens each day.

Moreover, the last year of the COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the gross inadequacies and horrors my patients and our community members face. SJR 12 defines our priorities and preferences on how we define health. I strongly believe access to health care should be a right. Affordable healthcare levels the playing field and makes our society stronger. It promotes success in our children and communities. It promotes jobs and growth, as individuals who remain injured or ill, remain out of work. We need to assure everyone can live up to their potential but in this fractured and fragmented health system we have, we define that as those who can pay for it.

SJR 12 simply lets the public define our beliefs related to the meaning of health and sets the trajectory moving forward. Oregon needs to take this overdue step. I urge the House Health Committee to move forward with this bill and let Oregonians vote on Healthcare as a right included in our state constitution.

Sincerely,

Antonio Germann, MD MPH