

This past year has taught us many lessons. One of those lessons is that the health of our neighbors directly impacts the health of me, my family, my community, and my country. Covid testing, treatment and vaccine distribution are essential if we are ever going to get "back to normal". It's plain to see that the current system is inequitable - it is more concerned with procuring profits for investors, rather than procuring health for its citizens. For some, covid treatments and hospitalization means remortgaging their homes or going into debilitating debt just to stay alive. For others without insurance, they skip seeking care altogether. How about the thousands furloughed in 2020/2021? Many don't qualify for OHP or ACA subsidies and the monthly premiums for private insurance are cost prohibitive because they no longer have an income. We are in the middle of a pandemic and there are thousands of people who don't have access to affordable care.

Access to affordable healthcare shouldn't depend upon a persons employment status or how much money they have in the bank. Affordable healthcare is a right and I fully support SJR 12. We need to ensure all citizens have access to the care in their time of need.