

**Testimony from Max Jones for the February 15, 2021 Meeting
of the Senate Committee On Health Care**

I support Senate Joint Resolution 12, establishing an obligation of the state to ensure every resident of the state access to cost-effective, clinically appropriate, and affordable health care. My support is based on both ethical grounds and practical grounds. I assume the ethical grounds require no explication. I would like to share my views on the practical issues.

Our on-going pandemic has shown that the least privileged people in our state are the most vulnerable to communicable diseases. They suffer the most, but we are all endangered by their situation. The only way to protect the health of all Oregonians, including the most privileged, is to protect the health of all Oregonians, including the least privileged.

Even in more normal times a similar principle applies in less dramatic form. For a strong economy in Oregon we need all citizens to be productive. Adverse health issues, especially chronic conditions, reduce productivity. This is a problem for everyone – employees, co-workers, and employers. And chronic conditions are often the result of a lack of primary care. The term “cost-effective” in the Resolution applies not only to health care metrics but to the whole state economy: we all benefit when we invest in a healthy workforce.

Thank you for your consideration.

Max Jones
PO Box 96, Bandon, Oregon 97411