

February 24, 2021

Oregon Legislature
Senate Committee on Welfare

Dear Senators:

I respectfully urge you to vote yes on Senate SJR 12, which would provide an amendment to our Constitution to ensure cost-effective, clinically appropriate, and affordable health care for every resident of Oregon.

As you surely know, the United States is the ONLY one of our world's 33 developed countries without universal health care. You also know that our health care system unfairly favors people of wealth and punishes those with limited means.

After successfully working for almost 60 of my 71 years, I do not want to lose our modest home here in Bend should a catastrophic illness face my husband or me in our retirement years. I want to end the uncertainty faced by millions who choose food over medicine, who live on the streets without access to mental and physical health care, and who suffer daily from an expensive, outdated health care system.

Our great state has always been ahead of the status quo—from establishing voter registration and secret ballot reforms in the 1800s, to allowing citizen-driven initiatives and referendums in the 20th Century. We need to once again take the lead and provide voters the opportunity to choose universal health care for the residents of our state.

Thank you for your time and your work to improve Oregon.

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