

Submitter: Michael Cojocaru
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB704

I am writing to express support for Senate Bill 704 -- which would create a Universal Healthcare Governance Board and direct the board to create a comprehensive plan to implement universal healthcare in our state by 2027.

Last year, Oregonians added the right to healthcare to our state constitution. Too many people across Oregon struggle to afford basic healthcare services. SB 704 works to change that and bring our state on par with the rest of the developed world when it comes to healthcare access. I encourage this committee to support SB 704.

The following is from Britannica, which shows how our current healthcare system is failing compared to other countries:

"According to a study from Harvard researchers, 'lack of health insurance is associated with as many as 44,789 deaths per year,' which translates into a 40% increased risk of death among the uninsured. Another study found that more than 13,000 deaths occur each year just in the 55-64 year old age group due to lack of health insurance coverage. A Commonwealth Fund study found that due to a lack of timely and effective health care, the United States ranked at the bottom of a list of 16 rich nations in terms of preventable mortality and a further study published in the Lancet ranked the United States 29 out of 195 countries and territories in terms of preventable mortality. In Italy, Spain, France, Australia, Israel, and Norway, all countries with a right to health care, people live up to five years longer than people in the United States."

It's time for universal healthcare. It's time for SB 704.