

To the Oregon Senate Committee on Healthcare,

First of all, I want to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to present this written statement of support for SB704, and thank you for all that you all have done for the wonderful state of Oregon.

As a worker in the United States, I always knew that being offered health insurance by my employer was important, but I never realized just how complicated and costly it could be to offer it to employees until I started my own client-services firm with two of my friends. We had a passion for web and mobile app development and were confident that we could turn our skills into a successful business.

As our entrepreneurial enterprise has continued, we have struggled. Health insurance plans are costly so instead of providing insurance through our corporation we elected to choose our own insurance plans individually. Meaning, we have to take a cut of our take home pay and have it dedicated to health insurance, alongside the inflation of everyday goods and services needed for us as individuals to live everyday.

SB704 is a unique opportunity to provide equitable and affordable health insurance to all residents of Oregon, lowering the burden of costs to individuals, and to small entrepreneurial enterprises such as mine.

Our own Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care Final Report found that passing SB704 is the first step to implementing a single payer system which would save Oregon an estimated \$980 million a year of spending on health care. Furthermore they found that Oregon residents, i.e. the ordinary people of Oregon, would save a total of \$1.93 billion a year on healthcare costs. By my math, if Oregon has a population of 4.24 million people, that's roughly \$454 more a year in the pockets of ordinary citizens. Money that can be used on things other than health insurance, money that goes back into the economy of Oregon.

Having experienced the change a single payer system can bring to the health insurance industry first hand in Spain convinced me of the benefits such a system can bring to Oregon, and eventually the United States writ large. Passing SB704 in Oregon is the first step for this to change the nation and the lives of Oregonians for the better.

Thank you for taking the time to read my written statement of support for SB704.

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