

Submitter: Bill Harris
On Behalf Of: Health Care for All Oregon
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB704

Chair Patterson and members of the Committee:

I am Bill Harris a retired physician living in NW Portland. I have enjoyed several decades of meaningful practice while becoming progressively more aware that our society could have health care better than our present quality, with satisfying service, at a price our society can afford, and uniformly available to all people. When we use market customs and rules we cannot get good health care. We need to establish a nation wide funding system and comprehensive coordinated care systems as recommended by Gov. Kitzhaber several years ago.

SB704 assigns a council and staff the task of thinking through the many elements of organizing funding of a comprehensive system from the public, the federal government, and state government. It will also develop principal elements of a comprehensive health care delivery system that includes all people.

I think our society deserves to give itself relief from the fear of injury or illness where care is not guaranteed, bankruptcy is frequent and the cost of care remarkably high with a market based system making insurance companies rich. We deserve and can have much better and for less than our society is now paying

Bill Harris
NW Portland