I became a Physician Assistant in 1986 and fully retired in 2021. I am also a cancer survivor. I had a bone marrow transplant in 1993 for stage 4 Hodgkins Lymphoma. I was diagnosed while I was in the process of moving back to California from the East Coast. I was able to access Cobra benefits and I was lucky to get a federal job on a Marine base during my treatment which lasted from 1990 until 1993. If one of those things had not fallen into place I would have been out of luck and missed not getting treated for my advanced cancer and I would not be writing this now. I know that many people die because they do not have access to medical care. In my case because I was lucky, and as a result,I was able to serve people as a medical provider after my bone marrow transplant for 28 more years including 20 years taking care of our veterans at the Portland VA medical center. If you think my story is unique you are mistaken. How much talent have we lost because people with treatable conditions could not access care.

I have a sister who lives in England and a brother who lives in France. They never make decisions in life based on health care. They just assume it will be there because it is. Recently my English niece who is moving to New York city for a few years asked how to get health insurance here (she has dual citizenship) and I had to tell her that I had no idea since every state is different and since I get health care from my federal retirement. I have no idea how the market place works. This is madness and only works for the wall street companies making record profits. This has to end and I support moving to a universal health care system with no middle layer of money makers. This is not socialism. We know that England and France and other countries of the European Union are not socialist but still manage to cover all their citizens. Oregon needs to follow their lead. Thank you for listening and please pass SB 704.