

Submitter: Dan Keeley

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure: SB704

Hon. members of the Committee:

While a plan for guiding health care is appropriate taking over the entire health care system is a fool's errand that will hurt many. Proponents say that we can fund universal health care with the money currently wasted on insurance companies and their regulators. While much money is wasted, a government program will also require many bureaucrats. For a universal system to benefit the public it will have to be restricted in what it offers. We cannot begin to afford to give everyone the care that millionaires buy now. Attempting to do so will create a system that quickly goes bankrupt and is forced to ration care through delay, as in Great Britain. This will create a backlash and destroy the system, probably permanently or at least for several generations. Please create a plan and a system that provides basic care that benefits the public as a whole. An example of this is the list of services in the Oregon Health Plan. While that list may be over generous it at least establishes some semi-realistic guidelines that limit cost and provide the most critical care for those who cannot afford more. The plan should include vaccinations, addiction treatment, prenatal and preventative care, accident care, palliative care and probably more. It should not include organ transplants and expensive cancer care for old guys like me. It should also stay clear of hot button political issues like abortion.

Thanks for Reading

Dan Keeley