

Submitter: Marcy Ayres  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure: SB704

I am a Registered Dietitian, mother of two little girls with Type 1 Diabetes and wife to a man who has Type 1 Diabetes. I have seen the pitfalls of private insurance from both sides of healthcare as a patient, patient advocate and healthcare professional. Our little girls are currently being robbed of opportunities in life & financial security for no other reason than being unlucky enough to get a disease for which there is no prevention or cure. Not only do there 9 and 5 year old bodies get poked with needles, subjected to high/low blood sugar and a constant threat of danger, thanks to our current health insurance system they will have financial insecurities to deal with for life. As a 3rd generation Oregonian and an American it's clear our system is the highest cost and causing poor outcomes.

We choose to be proactive with our kids health. We attend every specialist appointment, fill prescriptions on time and train every school staff member around them. It's at least 1 extra full time job. In addition to being a mother of 3 and working full time, I've spent hours on a monthly basis arguing with insurance and jumping through hoops to arrange the best care our girls can get or prescriptions. We have spent over \$10,000 per year for their care/supplies with the lowest deductible PPO plan my work offers. Imagine if that money could be put in their college fund? Towards our housing? Imagine the amount of hours I will never get back that could have been spent on them.

What my family has experienced under the current system is discrimination plain & simple. Because of these chronic conditions for which there is no prevention or cure we are subjected to financial/emotional strain that others will never know. It's firmly discrimination that's allowed to be carried out by private insurance companies. I want it changed and don't want any other Oregonian to have to experience what we have just because they choose to take care of their health. The answer to this suffering & discrimination is Universal Health Care. Every other advanced country on earth has used this answer. Oregonians deserve the same solution.