

I am in support of SB 704 because I am sick.

I am sick of insurance dictating that my doctor can only treat one problem per visit—might it be that multiple problems are related, thereby, pointing to an accurate diagnosis.

I am sick because a friend who suffers from multiple problems still does not have a diagnosis after *years* of seeing doctors one problem at a time.

I am sick because an anonymous insurance representative who has never seen me can overrule treatment plans that my healthcare provider orders.

I am sick because an anonymous insurance representative who has never seen me can overrule medications that the healthcare provider orders, substituting a cheaper, less effective medication that I have already unsuccessfully tried.

I am sick of treatments needing to be pre-authorized by an insurance company which treats me as a number,—actually, treats me *by* numbers: algorithms and dollars.

I am sick of treatments being authorized without delay when my deductible has *not* been met.

I am sick of treatments being delayed or denied when my deductible has been met.

I am sick of worrying about *not* having the money to pay for treatments.

I am sick of not having access to adequate health care even when I have the money and will pay—physical therapists did not allow me to pay cash for treatments the insurance denied. Why not?

I am sick of quality treatments being given to people with higher incomes and status (and insurance).

I am sick of the inequity: people who earn more money earn better insurance coverage so they pay less out-of-pocket while people who earn less money earn poorer insurance policies—thereby, paying more out-of-pocket.

I am really sick of a family's medical care being determined by the insurance they have.

A rich family with great health insurance pays nothing for a \$125,000 surgery while a middle income family is billed for 50% of the same surgery and must take out a loan to pay it off.

I am sick knowing about children who feel guilty because they are diagnosed with an expensive illness. It's a manageable, common, chronic illness-- but it costs a lot of money to *live* with. Not only do the children have to deal with the illness but with the guilt for taking more than their share of the family budget. This really happens and I am sick of it.

I am sick of not being valued simply by being.

I will be sick until our healthcare system is healed by valuing people over money.

I am sick because the cure is all around us in other countries, and yet we only look at ourselves and consider ourselves the greatest.

I am sick of the American way of treating each other.

I am sick of politicians choosing to support corporations over individuals because corporations support politicians and they get re-elected.

I am sick of politicians hearing personal, tragic, medical story after personal, tragic medical story and yet, continue to be unaffected: our healthcare continues to cost more than is affordable.

I am sick of hearing that politicians have great health care while they vote for the populace to deal with for-profit healthcare systems.

I am sick of American politicians voting for systematic genocide of the have-not or the have-less citizens. It is a fact that people are dying because healthcare is not affordable or available.

Oregonians voted to make healthcare a human right: please respond to this vote and heal the healthcare system. Take the step to create a Universal Health Plan Governance Board and direct that board to create a comprehensive plan for implementing a Universal Health Plan beginning in 2027.