

Submitter: Helen Anderson  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure: SB704

Please support SB704 that establishes a Universal Health Plan Governance Board and directs board to create a comprehensive plan for implementing a Universal Health Plan beginning in 2027.

I gave birth to my son in Clackamas, Oregon in March 2022. In Austria, where I lived during my 20's, every newborn baby in the city of Vienna is welcomed with a package of diapers and other necessities, and midwives make home visits to check on mother & new baby. (This is all part of their universal health care system.) Here in the US, babies are welcomed to the world with massive hospital bills!

Please support SB 704 as the next vital step in moving universal healthcare forward. The current healthcare system in Oregon is a huge financial burden on new families. I also argue that it is systemically sexist, disproportionately burdening childbearing women with costs related to childbirth and postpartum care. About a third of my income in 2022 has gone to insurance premiums, medical bills related to pregnancy, labor & birth, and postpartum care and recovery. Especially birth itself is hugely expensive. Universal healthcare, once implemented (the sooner the better), will help new families, especially new mothers and their infants and stop this disproportionate toll on childbearing women.