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On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB704

I fully support the current work to create a Universal health plan in Oregon. I grew up in Norway and have lived in a couple of other European countries (France and Germany), and I'm still at a loss for words for describing how counterproductive the current US health care system is. Imagine flying from Portland to Oslo, and being told that you'll know how much you have to pay only when you get there. Nobody would accept this from airline companies, but somehow this is the norm in health care.

Also, there is much more overtreatment in the US compared to say Norway, even if it's in Norway that a person can seek out treatment without paying much more than a small fee. How many sick people in the US are avoiding seeking treatment because they cannot find out how much this will cost, and they've had bad experiences with billing in the past?

Also, the fact that most people get their health care through their employer seems to me like a horrible idea, making for a much less flexible economy. How many startups and entrepreneurs are discouraged from striking out on their own, because they don't want to lose health insurance for themselves and their family?

The only reason that I can see for why Americans accept the current system is that they don't know about anything else. Please make a strong effort to change this situation, this could be an historical moment. All the best