

Submitter: Bobbi Bailey

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure: SB704

My name is Bobbi and my pronouns are she/her. I am a certified and licensed MRI Technologist and have worked in healthcare settings for 12 years. Previous to attending school to become a licensed Radiologic Technologist, I worked in medical billing and insurance reimbursement. My 20+ years of "behind the scenes" experience in medicine, as well as my own and my loved ones medical challenges, has continually reminded me of the need for a universal healthcare system. For my family one big challenge is getting quality care in a timely manner. Right now I have another week to wait before I can be seen just for a consult with a specialist's assistant due to symptoms I've had for 3 months. That meeting will determine how quickly I can actually be seen by the specialist for my problem, which may or may not be a problem at the time I am seen. In addition, I was astonished recently to discover that there was no way to schedule my son for 3 immunizations at our "home" clinic due to staffing issues. It is actually not even possible to get them done there at this time. Luckily our local health department will fill the need for us at this time, and thank goodness for that as the local pharmacies don't care one of the vaccines he required. Another healthcare related concern that weighs heavily on my family is the lack of accessible facilities in the rural region of Montana where my parents live. The closest hospital is 45+ miles away, most all specialty care requires them traveling more than 100 miles in one direction. In my studies as a student at Oregon State University, I learned about the importance of overall well-being and health of citizens. To provide basic needs for individuals can result in societies that prosper and individuals who are healthy and contribute positively to their environment. One of those basic needs is healthcare. In our country we have an overabundance of individuals who do not have a primary care physician, who are not seen on a regular basis for healthcare assessments, and whose diet and exercise are rooted in a fast-food, drive-through society. I support SB 704 as it moves forward to the next stage and encourage you to do the same.

Thank you,  
Bobbi Bailey