

Submitter: Julia Kunko
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB704

Dear Committee Members: I am writing you in full and enthusiastic support of SB 704. I am a RN. The company I worked for, a small, medicare/medicaid funded, non-profit, had no recourse as it watched health insurance premiums increase 10% or more every year, while the state funding for our agency remained the same (or reduced at times). This only subtracted from already insufficient staff wages and further contributed to the difficulty we had, and still have, in hiring and retaining adequate staff to provide 24hr care. Having a state provided healthcare system would allow non-profit agencies to focus their resources on the things that matter - providing essential services.

In my own life, due to my service as an RN during the pandemic, I am now unable to work full-time. I want to start my own business offering contract nursing with the county, a service that is desperately needed. Yet factoring in needing at least \$1000 a month to pay for insurance and co-pays is a major barrier to starting and thriving as an independent business owner.

Lastly, with all the people that will no longer be able to work the hours or in the jobs they used to due to long-covid or caregiving duties - we need universal healthcare now more than ever.

Fortunately, Oregon already has an amazing system in place (OHP) that could easily be expanded to cover all residents. Please vote YES on SB 704.