

Submitter: Kathleen Sullivan
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB704

February 12, 2023

Senator Deb Patterson, Chair
Senate Committee on Health Care
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support Senate Bill 704, Establish the Universal Healthcare Plan (UHP)
Governance Board (2023)

Dear Chair Patterson and Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care:

Access to universal health care is essential. I urge you to support Senate Bill 704, which will establish a Universal Health Plan Governance Board to create a comprehensive plan for implementing Universal Health Plan beginning in 2027.

Living in a small town, our health care options are limited. Local independent medical practices struggle due to poor reimbursements from insurance companies and unpaid mandates for electronic record keeping. It is difficult to find practitioners taking new patients or ones willing to take Medicare. We need leadership to sort this out.

Establishing Governance Board knowledgeable about the needs of the average person is important. Please ensure that members of the board will have the lived experience needed to represent the wide range of residents depending on universal health care. Also please consider the needs of independent medical practitioners who serve their communities from birth to the grave.

Universal Health Care is long overdue. Oregon can be a leader on this issue by supporting Senate Bill 704, there is a lot of groundwork to do before 2027.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Sullivan