

Submitter: Mark Keller
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB704

SB 704 Testimony for 2/13/23 hearing

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden and members of the Senate Committee on Health Care:

Our experience in the pandemic has shown our shortcomings in the U.S. healthcare system.

Our public healthcare systems are woefully underinvested. Nonprofit hospitals are bought by investors, and private hospitals are beholden to Wall Street. Profits are prioritized over people's wellbeing. Health insurance companies make their profit by denying care.

Talk to your acquaintances and you quickly find examples of extreme healthcare premiums. In two recent conversations I learned one friend pays \$24,000 a year and another who had to sell their grandparents farm to pay annual premiums! What happens to the majority of Americans for whom these premiums are totally out of reach?

To quote the February 8, 2023 New York Times editorial: "Our health care institutions as they exist today are part of the problem rather than the solution."

I urge you to support SB 704. It allows a thoughtful transition to a more equitable and less costly health care system.

Thank you,

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