



February 13, 2023

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden and Members of the Committee

My name is Tom Sincic. I am a retired Family Nurse Practitioner and serve as a volunteer in my role as President of Health Care for All Oregon.

As a Family Nurse Practitioner while I wanted to be caring for kids, I often found myself dealing with barriers to providing that care such as prior authorizations and out right denials by those that knew nothing of patient care or needs. This is just plain wrong.

The mission of Health Care for All Oregon is to “educate about and advocate for an equitable, affordable, comprehensive, high-quality publicly funded universal healthcare system that will improve the lives of individuals, families and communities.”

This mission aligns with the State’s intentions to have both affordable healthcare and achieve health equity. It is clear that the only way to do this is with true health care transformation. This is what passage of Senate Bill 704 will do.

It is clear that the so called complexity often referred to as a “health care system” has failed in both areas. Just take a look at the Lara Media Report (attached or separately submitted) derived from extensive community listening sessions provided as part of the Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care Report delivered to the Legislature last Sept.

Re-listen to the **Health System Costs: Financial Trends and Impact on Oregonians** during the [Dec. 8, 2022 Meeting of Senate Interim Committee on Health Care](#). Costs are not being contained.

Medical debt is taking its toll.

- https://consumers4qualitycare.org/issues/hospitalfail/oregon/?fbclid=IwAR2aD0llcec6wt8Pk3n1UII2Vulkl_xPWYb5u7YxIxDTLc90hsQkXtF7Vk_aem_ATutNKBfg1MxDh28fClThmsbFl6x-ZafYTBKfw1RoH4rOEepPmPa6BHZF_5GIb_hY-0CcnfR7KT4A1xQ9DGCxrXREEuWmFrRkWAdjuCsw4wXyWHyzWD6o696jhFg7icSK_F5rL5ltabPW55QYv2tYTX
- <https://www.healthsystemtracker.org/brief/emergency-department-visits-exceed-affordability-thresholds-for-many-consumers-with-private-insurance/#Highest%20contributors%20to%20overall%20visit%20cost%20by%20type%20of%20service,%202019>

There are severe health care work force challenges and provider burnout is big contributor.

- <https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/physician-health/what-physician-burnout>
- <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2775923>
- *The Existential Threat of Greed in US Health Care*
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2801097>



There are significant disparities in health outcomes.

- <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/scorecard/2021/nov/achieving-racial-ethnic-equity-us-health-care-state-performance>

This is a time to remember that the people in Oregon have spoken in making access to health care a constitutional right. Each of you on this committee now has the opportunity to put Oregon on a path to meeting that obligation by moving SB 704 forward and actually achieve Oregon's goal of health equity by 2030. Let's move Oregon forward with SB 704.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Sincic, MSN, FNP-Retired
President Health Care for All Oregon
president@hcao.org