

I began my public service career in 1982 working in the Multnomah County Auditor's Office as an Office Manager and ending at the City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services as an Office Support Specialist III. In 2021, after 39 years of service and debilitating knee osteoarthritis, I retired. I am 59 years old. I do not qualify for Medicare or Social Security yet. I pay my health insurance premiums which are \$846 per month. Additionally, are my co-pays and prescription costs. This month alone my out of pocket will be \$1000 for dental expenses, \$1600 for surgery, and \$350 for prescriptions. These expenses are making my retirement tenuous. I plan to draw Social Security at age 62 to try to additionally mitigate my healthcare expenses, but in the meantime paying my living expenses is a hardship. With the passage of Oregon Ballot Measure 111, healthcare is a right. Oregon n-e-e-d-s Universal Healthcare. No one should be living month to month on the edge of ruin to pay their healthcare expenses.

Please champion work with Health Care for All Oregon (HCOA) to establish state-wide, AFFORDABLE, Universal Healthcare as soon as possible for all Oregonians. Let's move forward with expediency to approve SB 704.

Thank you,
Carol Justice
1422 S Heather St.
Cornelius, OR 97113
503-860-6795