

Submitter: Susan Delmar
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB704

I am writing in support of SB704, as an essential benefit and an issue of human rights for Oregonians. I am a family physician in the state of Oregon and work in a federally qualified health center and community clinic. I see on a daily basis the health burdens that are carried by our community, in particular those who have no access of to health insurance. As providers, we are forced to make difficult decisions depending on if a patient will have access to essential medicines, lab testing, imaging and specialist treatment, not based on whether their condition warrants these next steps, but rather whether they are able to afford them out of pocket. We currently live in a world in which your financial circumstances dictate your access to care, while the very lack of those resources also increases the risk of disease, disability and death. With universal health care, people would have access to the preventive health efforts that have been proven to reduce disease, disability and death, reducing overall health care costs in significant ways. Universal health care is an essential step in the process of addressing our systemic inequities, most notably the ability to access health and wellness.

Please support SB704, it is an urgent matter.