

Submitter: Deian Salazar
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB704

I'm Deian Salazar, I am 22 Years old, Latino, Autistic, member of the Oregon Commission on Autism as Co-chair of the Social Services subcommittee testifying in my capacity as a private citizen here today. I'm a longtime supporter of Universal Healthcare, so let me tell you why we need this bill.

The first and most critical point is for the working parent, and for the taxpayer, we need a quality, accessible healthcare system and frankly the private market isn't giving us that. Government is a tool for the people like a scalpel.

I have learned from my conversations with many health professionals previously employed by private healthcare companies, they were so disgusted by the system that they left and started supporting universal healthcare. They saw that the system was fundamentally broken at the core, with the simple fact that as operating like a business with concerns about investors as well as profit margins, they were forced to squeeze every penny from the people coming to them for healthcare while giving them as little as possible in order to maximize profits.

A system that relies upon suffering by necessity in order to justify business growth and increasing profits is a system built against the very people who need healthcare the most. Even middle class people with excellent budgeting skills went broke because of this system.

Healthcare is the most basic need. Several people with disabilities and conditions like mine have struggled to access healthcare because healthcare companies don't deem them to be profitable clientele. public healthcare is all they can rely on. This is also breaking the backs of small businesses, creating a system where the elites are safe, but everyone else is constantly going broke. This bill and Universal Healthcare in general would be the net financial equivalent of a tax cut for most people, they'll have more disposable income, meaning a more sustainable spending supply, more economic growth at the bottom and middle, thus creating a more sustainable economy.

National Healthcare used to have bipartisan support, Teddy Roosevelt's presidential campaign platform addressed it by name. Progressive Republican and Workers Rights Icon Bob LaFollette supported it. It was a cornerstone of FDR's 1944 2nd bill of rights. Even many Republicans supported it.

Thank you for all your work on this and taking the next steps to bring this to fruition.
Please vote yes on SB 704.