

Submitter: Beverly Hoeffler
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB704

I am writing in support of SB 704 to establish a governance board to develop a realistic comprehensive plan to implement universal health care in Oregon. I write as a retired registered nurse and professor emerita of nursing. I write as an observer of how well traditional medicare functioned to cover the costs of hospitalization for my spouse's serious illness while I struggled to get coverage for cancer treatments through privately issued Medicare advantage plan. I write as a person of faith who has observed the impact of not being insured on struggling immigrant families who are saddled with crushing debt for health care expenses that they can ill-afford. It is time that we take seriously that health care is a right and not a privilege affordable as a commodity based on income and status in our society. I fully support establishing and funding such a Board as the legislative action needed to meet this humanitarian goal supported by a near million voters in Oregon.