

Submitter: Wes Brain

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure: SB704

Chair Patterson and Members of the Senate Health Care Committee:

My name is Wes Brain and I live in Ashland, OR. Thank you for this public hearing with the opportunity to testify regarding SB704. My background includes a career of over sixteen years as a firefighter and emergency medical technician with Jackson County Fire District #5 (formerly Talent Rural Fire Department) here in southern Oregon. I'm testifying to show support. SB704 deserves your yes vote to continue the work started after passing 2019's SB770 which established the task force that studied Oregon's health care needs. The task force final report which came out in September, 2022 lays out the steps needed to move Oregon to universal health care for everybody in our state. Establishing the Governance Board is the important next step. We need to do this, now is the time. Too many people do not have access to health care and this results in unneeded pain, suffering and way too often premature death.

My daughter Tanya Wray spent 9 years struggling leukemia while fighting barriers and delays for the care she needed that her doctors wanted. Diagnosed in 2000 while in her mid-twenties she ended her leukemia struggle when she died on January 31, 2009. Tanya was not treated humanely. Not getting appropriate care in a timely manner is a black mark on our broken system. My dear Tanya is gone yet with her father's help her struggle carries on, and I know we can do so much better. In Tanya's memory and for every other I child I ask this committee to move SB704. It is the right thing to do.

Thank you,
Wes Brain
Ashland, OR 97520