

Submitter: Shelley Karp
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB704

Please support SB704!

Obtaining good health insurance is very expensive or impossible for self-employed people in Oregon. When I moved to Oregon from Colorado in 2012, I had a policy for a "business group of one," but it was up for renewal 2 or 3 months before I became eligible for Medicare. The Colorado company would not renew my policy, since I now lived in Oregon, and health insurers in Oregon did not offer a policy for single self-employed people. My insurance broker advised me to buy a catastrophic plan, and avoid risky endeavors until my Medicare policy kicked in. (!!!)

To protect Oregonians from federal government changes to health insurance regulation, Oregon needs to step up and offer universal healthcare. No one should be dependent on the whims of health insurance companies and the US Congress for health care. Everyone, employed or not, should be able to access health care without having to worry about whether they can afford it.

Please pass SB704, and give all Oregonians the peace of mind of having access to good health care at a reasonable price.

Until we have universal healthcare, please also require that insurance companies immediately provide affordable policies for sole proprietors in Oregon.

Thank you for working for health care equity in Oregon.
Sincerely,
Shelley Karp