Submitter: Rowan Everard

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure: SB704

Hello, my name is Rowan Everard and I am healthcare provider in Portland. Over the year we have seen the immense strain that our private healthcare system puts on patients, providers, and institutions. No better example of the overall dysfunction of this system exists than the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic that we are still living through. Hospitals, organized on a fee-for-service basis, lost millions of dollars because treating COVID is not profitable. Millions of people have left the healthcare profession, partly from trauma, and partly because the reimbursement rates for regular visits are so low that they need to see a patient every 10 minutes. Private insurance reimbursement rates have become the defining factor in what kind of care patients can access, and what kind of care providers can afford to give. This is madness, and must be changed. Creating a publicly funded insurance option with better regulation, ideally not on a fee-for-service basis, can help steer the ship of the healthcare system in a better, less insane direction.

Thanks for you time,
-Rowan Everard