

April 6th, 2023

Mary A Thomas
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I am presenting testimony in support of Senate Bill 1089 and the need for funding to support the Governance Board.

Prior to the creation of the Affordable Care Act my health care insurance carried Lifetime maximum benefits. My husband's health conditions which included chronic non retractable daily migraine headaches required care from practitioners which led to incurring large debt. He would have reached his lifetime maximum at which point we would have been unable to get him the care that he needed.

In 2013 my son who was 23 years old and under my healthcare insurance due to the Affordable Care Act became seriously ill with Adult Respiratory Distress requiring Intensive Care in the hospital. He also subsequently was diagnosed with Hypertrophic Heart Disease. If he had not been covered under my health insurance coverage those costs would have been unmanageable for him.

I am a retired registered nurse with the majority of my 49 years of nursing working in acute care settings. There are many examples of times when my patients were frustrated, angry, and hopeless about the fractionated, poorly reimbursed care that they received. It is time for change.

The passage of Measure 111 gives the Legislature an option to work toward the changes that are needed to provide care for all constituents in a cost effective, simpler and fair manner. SB 1089 is an important first step toward that goal.

It is important that there are dedicated paid professionals to work toward building this system. The expense of providing for these professionals now will save much more later on.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary A Thomas