

Submitter: Lou Sinniger
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SB1089

Thank you Chair Senator Lieber and Committee Members.

I am a retired union representative. My last 20 years was with Oregon AFSCME Council 75. I was the bargaining representative for many City and County negotiations over the years. At every reopening session the elephant in the room became health insurance. Every contract resulted in employees and I might say employers also, paying more and benefits being reduced. In spite of my guidance in bargaining caucuses I would watch my members give up wage increases and even some rights just to maintain their health insurance package. This simply is not fair, productive, or necessary.

We all know that in comparison to other industrialized countries and OECD the United States medical results are among the lowest while we pay twice as much. The reason is that the other countries treat health care as a public service while we treat it as a commodity.

SB1089 is an essential step forward. The Governance Board with appropriate funding will bring back to the Oregon Legislative Body a complete Universal Health Care package. Please pass this Bill.
Thank you.