

Submitter: Jarkko Cain

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure: SB5506

I co-own a business in Portland with 25 employees. We'll be marking our 20th anniversary this June. We're a music venue — operating in an industry with modest margins, unspectacular pay scales, and many part-time positions. We love our employees — it's a family — and very much want them all to have the protection of a solid health plan. But there is simply no way we can provide coverage for our full staff without dramatic price hikes that would drive customers away, make us uncompetitive, and prevent our being around to offer health care (or amazing concerts for that matter), to anyone.

There is a way our employees and their peers can have health coverage, and that's if we all do it together. Nothing is more important for our citizens than protecting their health, and Oregonians should not have this protection left to accidents of the marketplace. I urge this committee to fund and enable the Governance Board described in SB 1089 to oversee the implementation of universal health care in Oregon.