

Submitter: Mary Hennrich
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SB1089

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Senate Committee On Health Care
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Nearly a MILLION Oregon voters passed Measure 111 last November! Healthcare is now codified as a RIGHT in our state constitution. The next step to making these words REALITY, is moving forward with the recommendation of the Joint Task Force on Universal Healthcare's recommendation--establish and fund the Oregon Universal Health Plan Governing Board (SB 704). I have been a nurse, public health nurse, health department director, founding CEO of CareOregon, and Executive Director of the Oregon Public Health Institute--for over 50 years working my level best to improve the health and well being of ALL Oregonians, especially those most vulnerable and marginalized. I and so many others have worked very hard to establish a equitable, affordable, quality healthcare "system" but it is now evident that we have "the house that Jack built." We can't continue to "tweak" around the edges--we need to TRANSFORM healthcare and stop doing "wallet biopsies" assuring good care to those who can "afford" it. "Remodeling" no longer works (if it ever did) we need to "rebuild" and SB 704 is the necessary NEXT STEP. Thank you, courageous legislators, for passing SB 704 out of the Healthcare Committee with a strong "do pass" recommendation!

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Lou Hennrich MS, RN-retired