

Submitter: Janice Karpenick

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure: SB1089

Chair Lieber, Vice Chairs Knopp and Hansell, and Senators Manning and Steiner,

I am writing to support SB1089.

I am a retired RN, and worked as a nurse for over 40 years. Health care has changed a lot over that time, not all for the better. Although many treatments and diagnostics have improved, health care costs have skyrocketed with ever increasing deductibles that many simply can not afford, if they have insurance at all. I have taken care of patients after surgeries they postponed for years because they did not have insurance or could not afford their high deductibles. Of course, that postponement led to more serious surgeries and more dire outcomes. I have cared for patients who should have remained hospitalized at least overnight after their procedures, but went home the same day because they were not insured and could not afford to stay the night. Health care is a right, and we here in Oregon can lead the way to a better system with single payer health care for all. People should not be bankrupted because of health care costs. People should not lose their homes because of health care costs. We can, and must, do better. In addition to being the right thing to do, it is actually more cost effective to offer a single payer health care system with an excellent program of preventive care rather than our current fragmented system with its multiple insurance companies and inherent inefficiencies.

Please support SB1089 - we can do this!

Thank you,
Janice Karpenick