

Submitter: Kay Eilers  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure: SB1089  
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I want to strongly encourage support for universal healthcare, and I'll tell you why.

I retired from a mid-valley high school in 2012 after working for the school district as a classified employee for 28 years. I also was the proud parent of two graduates. I say was, because our daughter Anna died from brain cancer in 2001. She was diagnosed in 1998, and her battle lasted 2-1/2 years. It included several surgeries, radiation, chemotherapy, and a myriad of drugs. Her death was an unfortunate end to great potential (she was a Valedictorian). Fortunately, however, the school district's medical insurance policy was generous at that time.

As I continued my employment, however, those benefits were reduced. Part-time staff were no longer eligible without a prohibitive contribution, then later coverage was reduced from 100 to 80 percent for full-time employees. I do not know what the benefits are now, but I'm afraid they have continued to decline. I was recently asked to donate to GoFundMe for a full-time employee who is undergoing treatment for ovarian cancer. I do know that our daughter's medical expenses would have been financially catastrophic if her condition had occurred later in my employment. I enjoyed my job, but was chained to it if I didn't.

No one deserves to deal with a devastating financial burden in addition to an emotional one. No one should have to choose between medical treatment and food or shelter. Please continue to support universal healthcare by providing the framework and funding needed to make it a reality.

While I am unable to provide testimony in person, I appreciate your taking the time to read this letter.