

Submitter: Mike Huntington
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SB1089

My name is Michael Huntington. I am a retired radiation oncologist and, for 22 years, was the Medical Director of the Samaritan Regional Cancer Center in Corvallis. I am a Board Member of Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates, the Oregon Chapter of Physicians for a National Health Program, and One Payer States.

Before I retired in 2006, I witnessed a disturbing pattern. Patients were coming in with advanced cancers because they had delayed care. Even though they knew they had a serious illness, they were too afraid to seek medical attention because of the cost. They did not want to risk their savings, home, and family for healthcare costs.

1. Our unaffordable inefficient healthcare system must be reformed, and it is the responsibility of elected officials to figure out how to do this.
2. In 2022, Oregonians passed a constitutional amendment making healthcare a right for every Oregonian.
3. Establishing the Governance Board and funding their work will give you the specific details and information you need next session as you confront the tough issue of healthcare reform.
4. The work outlined in SB 1089 will support you on the path to closing the coverage gap and achieving healthcare equity and justice.