

Submitter: Bruce Thomson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SB1089

April 12, 2023

Re: Testimony to Senate Rules Committee on SB 1089
To: Honorable Co-Chairs, Senators Kate Lieber and Tim Knopp &
Members of the Committee; Senators Bill Hansell; James Manning Jr; and Elizabeth Steiner

I am Bruce Thomson MD, a retired primary care physician from Corvallis. I support SB 1089, ask that you approve of it and move SB1089 forward to Ways and Means, where it must be adequately funded to accomplish the tasks stated in SB1089.

I support SB 1089, because I am concerned with our present private health insurance system; and the direction this system is headed with every increasing administrative demands being placed on medical providers. These administrative demands are demoralizing to medical providers. Many nurses and physicians are leaving the profession. An additional concern is that there are too many gaps in health care coverage for Oregonians. Gaps that any of us may one day fall into through no fault of our own. Its not just medical providers who are impacted by the inefficiencies in the administration of our current system; patients too are being adversely impacted by delays in appropriate treatment.

After 2 years of work, The Task Force for Universal Health Care has issued a set of recommendations for the next steps in devising a more efficient and effective manner of providing health care to all Oregonians. SB 1089 is the instrument through which those next steps will be addressed in greater detail by establishing a Governing Board. It is time to take the next step on reforming healthcare in Oregon. Thank you for your dedication to meeting the needs of Oregonians for equitable universal health care per the Oregon constitution.

Bruce Thomson, MD