

Submitter: Robin Bloomgarden
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SB1089

I am in full support of SB1089, the logical next step in exploring how to create a universal system of health care in Oregon.

Tens of thousands of Oregonians are set to lose Medicaid and Medicare funding, facing an existential threat due in part to exploding costs largely attributable to privatization and mismanagement and fraud by parties such as “Pharmacy Benefit Managers”, and schemes such as “Direct Contracting”, promoted by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services “Innovation Center”, which is empowered to test and implement health payment models of privatization WITHOUT Congressional approval.

Direct Contracting morphed into ACO REACH on Jan 1st this year, with all the same problems, but on steroids! Both of these programs came out of the Trump Administration as more ways to destroy these programs most of us rely on.

Now the choice is becoming one of letting more people die of preventable or treatable medical conditions, or creating publicly funded health systems at the state or national level with much lower overall costs because insurance companies are not in the way anymore.

Congress has shown no inclination to put people over profits, so it will be up to Oregon to show that it can be done. Your moral responsibility is to make this Task Force a reality now, rather than later.

I urge you to vote yes on SB 1089.