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On Behalf Of: HCAO
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SB1089

I recently met a gentleman at a volunteer mailing for a local arts nonprofit. I asked how he became a volunteer. He replied that he and his wife, recently deceased, had been regular subscribers and patrons. But he could no longer afford season tickets as the cost of her care during her illness nearly bankrupted him. He said, "Medicaid now owns half my home."

My own father under hospice worried about the costs of his care with his fixed income---he asked me from his bed, "Honey, how much is this going to cost me?" He didn't understand that Medicare would cover those expenses. The point is, he worried as he was dying about the cost of his dying!

Money is a limiting factor for all we do. It shouldn't be factored into the cost of healthcare, especially if it is a right. And now money is your issue too. By voting to fund SB 1089, the burden of accessing healthcare and the affordability of healthcare can ultimately be eased for all Oregonians. Our current system does not serve our citizens well. You can change it by moving this bill forward.

I urge you to worry less about the cost and imagine the possibilities of a state system where healthcare, as a right, is also a reality, one that will allow us as citizens, as well as the state, to thrive both economically and creatively without all the fears surrounding the simple need to have healthcare.

Thank you.