

Submitter: Mary Lehman
On Behalf Of: Oregonians
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I have two topics that I propose for attention and funding.

1.) Oregonians passed Initiative 111 sometime ago and now we need to take the next step which is to establish and fund the Universal Health Care Governance Board in SB1089 (formerly SB704). This will direct us to the constitutional obligation of a health care system that will be affordable and equitable. Being a Medicare recipient, I have a degree of healthcare security. Most, if not all of you, have that security too based on employment. I write for all the service workers--wait staff, handymen and women, landscapers, store clerks, farm labor, seasonally unemployed and many more, who don't have the security when they become ill. These folks keep a small city like Florence going. We need to help them out.

2.) Guns! First off, I don't agree that putting more guns near, in or around schools is the answer. That's the band aid. I support funding of whatever is required to get guns off Main Street. You've all discussed this and now we need REAL action that keeps the immature, mentally ill and extensions of the same, from access to guns. Common sense background checks, registration, waiting periods, storage, etc. need to come before arming schools more. Something substantial needs to come from this body before a hideous gun culture becomes more pervasive in Oregon.

Thank you for this opportunity.