

Submitter: Wes Brain
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SB1089

Chair Patterson and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules:

My name is Wes Brain and I live in Ashland, OR. Thank you for this public hearing with the opportunity to testify regarding SB1089. My background includes a career as a firefighter and emergency medical technician with Jackson County Fire District #5 (formerly Talent Rural Fire Department) here in southern Oregon. I'm testifying to show support. SB1089 deserves your yes vote to continue the work started after passing 2019's SB770 which established the task force that studied Oregon's health care needs. The task force final report came out in September, 2022, and lays out the steps needed to move Oregon to universal health care for everybody in our state. Establishing the Governance Board with adequate funding is the important next step. We need to do this, now is the time. Too many people do not have access to health care and this results in unneeded pain, suffering and way too many premature deaths.

My daughter Tanya Wray spent 9 years struggling leukemia while fighting barriers and delays for the care she needed that her doctors wanted. Diagnosed in 2000 while in her mid-twenties she ended her leukemia struggle when she died January 31, 2009. Tanya was not treated humanely. Not getting appropriate care in a timely manner is a black mark on our broken system. My dear Tanya is gone yet with her father's help and with the help of Oregonians across the state her struggle carries on. We can do so much better! In Tanya's memory and for every child & human being residing in Oregon I ask this committee to move SB1089. It is the right thing to do.

Thank you,
Wes Brain Ashland, OR 97520