

SUPPORT SB 1089

Subject: Constituent Testimony Supporting SB 1089

Submitted By:

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I strongly urge SUPPORT for SB 1089. I will relate just two brief anecdotes that show how health care has fundamental, foundational importance not only for healthy individuals, but for a healthy thriving economy and society at large. Healthy individuals are fundamental to a thriving society.

My personal story is one of long term chronic visual impairment that now limits my mobility, independence, and ability to earn. The condition was aggravated by treatment gaps caused by job loss and employment based insurance. Significant and *avoidable* sight loss had occurred before I qualified for Medicare.

The second instance is the case of our tenant who incurred multiple calamities, including a compound fracture from a work-related fall for which there were unexplained problems with Workman's Compensation.... The fall and broken arm were followed by a vehicle crash with an uninsured motorist, in which they suffered serious injuries, incurring medical and legal costs, which cascaded into rent delays, and a very troublesome experience with the Oregon Emergency Rental Assistance Program (OERAP).

Many of the individual and societal costs of these occurrences would be alleviated if a Universal Health Plan were provided for Oregon residents. The Governance Board is the critical next step needed to advance this very important legislation. SB 1089 is needed now so that Oregon will show the way in providing health care for all Oregonians!