

Submitter: Alex Polikoff

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure: SB5506

To Honorable Co-Chairs Steiner and Sanchez and members of the Committee;

Appropriate allocation of limited funds is surely challenging. However, cost and availability of healthcare is almost always at the top of the list when Oregonians are asked what they worry about most.

Oregon recently voted to make healthcare a Constitutional right. There is a bill making its way through the Legislature that would be a fundamental step forward in transforming this right into a reality. SB1089 would create a Governance Board that would be responsible for mapping out how a publicly-funded system of universal healthcare could be established in Oregon. The fiscal cost of the bill would be a very small price to pay in potentially guaranteeing healthcare for all Oregonians while still saving money over what would otherwise be spent on healthcare in our state. Sufficient funding will ensure that essential staff, consultants and expertise will be able to provide the Legislature with the tools it needs to help answer the call of Measure 111.

Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane". Please put SB1089 on the Committee's list of "must be funded" bills, and help us move toward a more equitable and just Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration.

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