

Submitter: Vanessa Schuster  
Committee: Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue  
Measure: HB 2010  
Stance: Support

March 8, 2025

Dear Chair Meek, Vice-Chair McLane, and Members of the Committee:

This is the first time I've participated in a public hearing because I felt compelled to do so for myself and other Oregonians. I am disabled and in the process of trying to get approved for SSDI. I am not eligible for Medicare, so I rely on Medicaid to survive, as does 1 in 3 Oregonians and 56% of children in the state per the Hospital Association of Oregon. Without it, I have no chance of maintaining what life I have left, nor any hope of improving it.

The current administration has made it clear they view those in need of assistance as "parasites"—a belief that is not only inhumane but also deeply damaging. Dismantling this vital institution would have devastating consequences, not just for those who rely on it but also for their families and friends, who would be forced to watch their loved ones suffer needlessly due to lack of coverage and unaffordable alternatives. No one should be condemned to hardship simply because they need help.

As you know, HB 2010 has the support of many organizations in our state, including the Hospital Association of Oregon, Oregon Law Center and many insurers, among others. This bill will save lives, and the means to do so is in reach and backed by those it would impact.

I implore you, please vote in favor of this bill. You hold the lives of so many in your hands—please don't throw us away.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,  
Vanessa