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On Behalf Of:  
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Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1060

Anybody in business knows you have to show your price. But in health care, we just jump in blind.

Like most patients who find out they have a malignant tumor, my primary focus was to get it out – at all costs. Little did I know the cost to remove my stomach tumor and my six-day hospital stay would exceed \$250,000.

The whole system let me down. In addition to communication breakdowns between my doctors that led to serious, possibly harmful delays in my care, and a nursing strike, I also dealt with significant financial uncertainty.

Between the hospital charges and the surgeon's bill, the amounts were glaring. It's daunting to open those envelopes when they arrive. Thankfully, insurance paid a big chunk, and I'm fortunate I have the means to cover my share, which amounts to a high annual deductible of \$5,000, plus 10% of the costs. But I can't imagine how others who are less fortunate can do it.

And I'm not done. I will be undergoing cancer treatment for many months. The bills will keep coming, and I would like to know the price.

I don't want the cheapest care, but I would like to know that what I am paying is reasonable. I would like to be able to shop and compare services to know what my options are. Anybody in business knows you have to show your price. But in health care, we just jump in blind. Health-care services should come with a price tag like everything else. That's why, as a resident, a business owner and a patient, I would like the Oregon legislature to pass SB 1060.