

Submitter: Stacey Olsen
On Behalf Of: SB 27 SB 283
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

My name is Stacey Olsen, I work at Avamere Suzanne Elise, which is an Assisted Living facility in Seaside, Oregon. We are one of the highest rated for employee satisfaction and the care that we provide for our residents. One of the reasons our employee satisfaction rate is so high is because of our amazing union contract and the healthcare trust we are a part of. We fought really hard to get included in the union healthcare trust program during bargaining of our current contract.

The Essential Worker Healthcare trust needs to continue receiving funding through the state budget, giving affordable healthcare to essential healthcare workers. I am currently on a medicated assisted treatment program (MAT) through this insurance, otherwise I would still be strung out on drugs. Without my insurance, just one month of those pills is \$1000. Since I have such a great contract at work that pays me well, I don't qualify for Medicaid anymore, but I cannot afford the high costs of health insurance otherwise. I can provide health insurance for my kids now and dental insurance.

My coworker, had to go to a month without EWHT insurance due to some clerical errors, and she had to get some EKGs done and has huge bills now. She takes multiple medications for her heart and could've had a heart attack but paid for her pills out of pocket during that time. She wasn't able to get marketplace insurance during that time or other insurance. She was having to cancel her doctor's appointments until it finally got fixed. Now she is back on our EWHT insurance and that makes a huge difference.

We all need to have the Essential Workers Healthcare Trust, so that we can all live and work as caregivers for our families, residents, and be productive members of society. We work in the healthcare industry; we deserve to have access to appropriate and affordable healthcare too. I speak for myself and all of my coworkers for how important the continued funding of this healthcare is to us. Your support on Senate Bill 27 is crucial to ensure the future funding of this healthcare trust that provides security and health to essential workers.