



Chair Salinas and members of the committee, my name is Anna Blackman. I live in Eugene and I work at Sacred Heart Riverbend Hospital for the last 13 1/2 years as a Certified Nursing Assistant. I am a member of SEIU local 49 and I am writing to you today asking you to support HB3076.

I have struggled over the years of working here affording my own care after my insurance payments. Back in 2011, I was in a car accident that resulted in having spinal surgery on my neck. I returned to work sooner than my doctor wanted after being off for 3 months because I was quickly spiraling into more and more debt that I couldn't afford to pay. I tried to keep up with my medical bills by using my credit cards. Which helped for a short period of time until I maxed them out and then no longer could afford to keep up with those payments as more and more medical debt accrued. This car accident was a no fault accident for me and due to this I had to sue the other drivers to get my medical bills paid.

While having the stress of a lawsuit on top of all of my injuries trying to heal I had my own employer send me to collections on bills I couldn't afford. My credit was ruined by being sent to collections and being unable to pay credit card bills I used for medical bills at my own employers facilities. No one offered me charity care and at the time I honestly didn't know where to go for help.

Prior to this happening I was preapproved for a home loan and looking for a house to buy. It took 3 years for my auto claim to settle and I finally had the money to pay off all of this collection debt that had accrued quite a bit of interest over the years. PeaceHealth had me sign a waiver that if I received money I would pay them back for what they paid. So therefore they knew I had a very good case and would be able to pay them eventually but this didn't stop them from causing me so much unnecessary stress by sending me to collections and ruining my credit.

Now 8 years later I am still working hard to rebuild my credit so I can finally qualify for a home loan again. This greatly affected my family as we would've been almost 10 years into buying our first home. Hospitals like mine are making more and more profit and still continue to keep their nonprofit status. This is why I support HB 3076, I urge you to help us keep these non profit hospitals doing their part to keep the non profit status.

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