

Dear Oregon Voters and Oregon Legislators,

This note is neither an expression of support nor opposition to HB 4114. It's impossible for responsible voters and health care advocates who don't know the undisclosed history of this bill to have an informed position on it.

This note instead calls out the arrogant disrespect the Democratic supermajority has shown for the voters of Oregon exemplified by this bill. We know that Rep. Salinas has not only sponsored this bill, but also submitted three exhibits without explanation that appear to be opinionated. Neither Rep. Salinas, nor Reps. Holvey, Prusak, Sanchez, Schouten, Williams nor Sen. Monnes Anderson, all co-sponsors and all Democrats, and have extended we the voters the basic courtesy of submitting an explanation to the testimony record of why they have sponsored this bill.

It does seem likely that this bill if passed would increase the cost of increasingly unaffordable private and employer-based health insurance in the state since it requires health benefit plans to now cover a medical service that Medicare has assumed the burden of covering for years. Moreover, "single payer" is not a credible response to this. This is an example of how costs would be increased in Oregon by quietly adding selected services for unknown political reasons. Based on recent history, it's a reasonable observation that likely result would be a bureaucrat-controlled Prioritized List for rationing medical care on the basis of other than just medical need as we see for the Oregon's Medicaid system.

Unfortunately, we also can't depend on an Oregon press that is increasingly failing to serve as the public's witness to explain the critical backstory of this legislation to Oregon voters. This makes failure of the sponsors to provide that backstory as testimony for this bill all the more disrespectful to the voters. This has come to be the norm for the Oregon Senate and House, and seemingly has gotten worse now that Democrats have attained super-majority control in both chambers.

As stated at the outset, this note neither expresses support nor opposition to the bill. It's impossible to have an informed opinion from the bill and the information provided by the sponsors. Instead this note points to this bill as just one example supporting a call that the Senate and House should immediately institute rules that sponsors of bills must provide an "open government" statement to voters as the first item of testimony. These rules must provide:

- The "open government" statement must disclose why the sponsors have introduced the bill, who has petitioned them to do so, and with whom they have worked to shape the text.
- All Legislative Council records detailing any aspect of the drafting of legislation are public records for which anyone can submit a public records request to the LC with which the LC must comply.
- Failure of a bill's sponsors to provide a complete and truthful statement is sanctionable as both a violation of ethics laws equivalent to failure to disclose an actual conflict AND of campaign finance laws equivalent to failure to disclose a campaign contribution of sufficient value that it must be disclosed.

Best regards,

A Voter who Pays Attention