

Madame Secretary:

Please enter this vote explanation into the record.

HB 2010 is the provider and hospital tax. This is the best option available amongst the worst options. Meaning that in order to fund rural hospitals who have to provide universal health care in Oregon we must raise funds for federal match. This appears to be the only plausible option at this time. Unfortunately, it does not contain cost containments that will be required to keep health care afloat. In reality, the medical community is in whole the best paid in the State of Oregon. My District's per capita is approximately \$28,000 a year. At the same time, Portlandia is \$36,000 per year. Some counties in Eastern Oregon are as low as \$17,000 per year. Everyone must sacrifice to help everyone, but at this time cost containment is a finger pointing event. This is not a real fix at all. The carrier's rhetoric that government agencies know best how to save health care is utter nonsense. The Democrats have been in charge for four decades thus the failure is totally theirs. Had we needed to provide a vote to get this past on 18 votes then it would have required a yes vote. Until the medical community is willing to cut costs health care systems remains in jeopardy.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Boquist
State Senator