

Secretary: Vote explanation please. Sen Boquist

“HB 2508 was a ‘yes’ vote going to the floor as we need to expand inexpensive telemedicine to increase access while reducing costs. The Carrier’s open seemed logical. Then the questions and statements by Senators started raising more questions not answers. As doctors and practices closed, fears increased, visits decreased, so access was actually pretty good for those willing to defy the fear and panic being spread by the Oregon Health Authority. Then symptomatic covid-19 has created a new crop of millionaires and billionaires in the health care industry. The bill was described on the floor as an optional way to increase access but the text is riddled with ‘require’ not may clauses. It was stated regardless of being by telephone the doctor should be paid the same amount as a clinic visit. This cost is then passed to the patient. Office visit costs are sky rocking so charging the same is not right. It was stated whatever the cost for service in office it should be billed at the standard billing chart rate. Then it leaves it to the incompetent Oregon Health Authority to oversee these increases in costs. The same OHA that locks seniors in homes to die thus is guilty of crimes against humanity. As the Democrat President and Democrat CDC issue orders to eliminate masks and other medical procedures, the Oregon Health Authority and OSHA with the Governor continue to issue more mandates, lockdowns, and implement new orders to protect themselves from liability at the expense of the citizens. OHA, OSHA and the Governor should be in jail not overseeing profiteering by doctors, hospitals and the health care industry. We need cost effective telemedicine another OHA scam.”