

Addendum to Proponent Testimony re: HB440 12/5/18

Submitted by Tim Kettler

As an operator of a service business we perform our service at the customers residence or place of business. This affords opportunity for talking to many folks every week. The topic of the sad state of our current healthcare system invariably comes up in conversation. Fear, doubt, confusion and anger is how I would describe the stories that I hear surrounding this issue.

I am a member of the Single Payer Action Network, having first joined in 2005. During that time my experience through my business, family and friends has shaped my healthcare perspective. I have a 92 year-old mother who, after exhausting her funds over a period of 8 years applied for Medicaid, just as this body was considering legislation that would have ended the Medicaid expansion and left my mother on the street.

Our son, at 26 loses sleep, increasing his anxiety and depression over his future wondering if he will have healthcare to serve his needs after we are gone. It is very difficult to hear your child talk about suicide at times due to the anxiety he feels just getting through the day.

When I began receiving Medicare that left my wife with an Obamacare Marketplace formula that resulted in premiums as high as \$1172/mo. with a \$5000.00 deductible for three years. And yes, you guessed it, on the 29th of December 2017 she went into the hospital for cancer surgery, completely meeting the deductible in short order. To add insult to injury the insurance company pulled out of the county and terminated her policy 2 days later and the new insurer (there was only 1 insurer in the county and for a period none) would not accept billing from the one hospital in the county leaving some county residents 50+ miles from a hospital.

I am certain that you have heard and will hear a real earful on this topic. The stories that you hear are much more than a perspective, they are a real time illustration of the present failing system versus the universal need for a publicly funded, openly accessible fiscally sustainable healthcare system. House Bill 440 is exactly that. Our collective experience has led us to this moment and those who have been tirelessly working on this proposal know it's only a matter of time, as our neighbors learn more about this opportunity that it becomes reality. We all know the public supports this, it's time to hear our voice.