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My name is Delene Perley. I live in Portland.

No one should fear going broke because of a medical issue for themselves or their family. Such fear can delay care until the issue is much more serious, cause someone not to have medication that could be a help or even die because of lack of medical attention.

This became so apparent to me as I served a family at the food pantry which I coordinate. There was a mother and wife whose husband became ill, could not work, lost his job and their medical insurance while he was being treated. They went through their savings, lost their home, were living with relatives and now for the first time in their lives in a food pantry asking for help to get them through. We as a state and country can do better.

My own son lost his job because the office closed. He was told at the insurance offices they would not help because he had been diagnosed with high functioning autism. In his fifties, through SSDI and Medicare, is he finally covered. Why can't we do this for everyone?

Let's really lead the nation and help our own uninsured citizens be healthier both in body and financially. Covid has surely helped us see the need for societal protection. We keep hearing "We are all in this together." Indeed we are. Let's act on that premise and care for everyone?

You can take the first step! Please do so. Thank you for all your work.

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