

Thomas Spear
Arrowsic

Good morning. My name is Tom Spear and I enthusiastically support LD 1045, An Act To Support Universal Health Care.

The American health care system is a scandal. Compared to other industrialized countries with national health care systems, our system is outrageously expensive, less effective, and more unequal. LD 1045 will lessen the cost of health care and improve our results at the same time.

While American medicine is excellent, our main problem is our method of delivery and paying for health care. Our current system is unwieldy, adversarial, and unfair, pitting patients and doctors against insurance companies. Some patients have good insurance and pay little, while others have to battle with anonymous insurance clerks to get treatment and still others have no insurance and suffer high costs and poor health. A single payer system will sharply reduce the administrative expenses caused by an unwieldy insurance system that absorbs some 25% of all costs, reducing them to ca. 2%. It will also bring down inflated drug costs.

We have lived in two countries with national health systems. We loved feeling safe and secure, free to change jobs, and well-taken care of.

Under LD 1045, health care will be free and universal. It will be simple, like Social Security and Medicare. It will cost less than the current hodgepodge of government and private funding. Drug prices will be negotiated and controlled. And patients will remain free to choose their own doctors.

I urge you to support LD 1045.