



How to write a successful Letter to the Editor (LTE)

- **Find out from your local paper the maximum number of words allowed.** Usually one is allowed a maximum of 250 words so make sure to use each one carefully. All the information you will need is listed in the Commentary section of your print newspaper on their website.
- **Try to refer to a previous LTE or Editorial piece and respond to it.** You are more likely to get published if you are responding in agreement or disagreement to a previously written piece.
- **Be Specific.** Make sure to mention the Oregon Better Health Act and give a bill number if possible. Use any of the following bullet points or fast facts from your Archimedes handout or from the website.

Bullet Points for your LTE if you are a:

Regardless of what category you might fall into remember we are all working together. However, below are some ideas that might get you started, get your letter printed and help elevate this issue in Salem.

If you are a Senior:

- **Talk about the need for a “sustainable” health care plan that would have to include changes in Medicare.** (See handout, The Oregon Better Health Act & Medicare)
- **Talk about how most people on Medicare have to purchase a supplemental insurance policy because Medicare falls short of covering their needs.**
- **Talk about Long-Term Care needs** (example: people on Medicare who need long term care services must spend themselves into poverty in order to become eligible for Medicaid)
- **Talk about the solution.** (example: I support the Oregon Better Health Act because it will allow us to care for those who currently depend on Medicare as well as those who will depend on it in the future like my children and grandchildren.



If you are a Small Business:

- **The Problem:** “As a small business owner I know first hand health insurance is expensive.”
- **The Solution:** “Oregon small businesses are the backbone of the state’s economy. The Oregon Better Health Act would set up a system where costs would be 1) equitably shared and 2) based on ability to pay, thereby allowing small business owners like myself the ability to participate and purchase affordable coverage for myself and employees.

If you are a Worker without Coverage

- **The Problem:** “I am one of Oregon’s working uninsured. Hundreds of thousands of others are just like me.
 - We work hard, we pay taxes and we pay into a health care system we can’t use either because we are not poor enough or old enough
 - When we/or a member of our family is sick our options are limited.
 - In dire circumstances the emergency room is our only option. The not only costs me more money. That costs us all more in the end.
- **The Solution:** The Oregon Better Health Act sets up a system so that working Oregonians have access to health care at rates we can all afford.

If you are a Concerned Citizen with Coverage

- **The Problem:**
 - 1) I have health insurance but 600,000 Oregonians don’t. I’m lucky. But health care shouldn’t be about luck like the lottery system. Just because I’m lucky today doesn’t mean that I’ll be luck tomorrow.
 - 2) I have health care insurance but it is expensive. One reason is because each time an uninsured Oregonian gets sick and ends up in the emergency room these costs are then shifted to people with insurance through increases in the premiums they pay.
- **The Solution:** The Oregon Better Health Act sets up a system where all Oregonians can afford a core level of benefits based on ability to pay. The Oregon Better Health Act ensures that everyone has timely access to health care which will eliminate cost-shifting.