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This is Dianne Daniels for Brookings Harbor Voices.

We're voting on Measure 101, a "temporary assessment" to fund health care for low income people and stabilize health insurance premiums. It applies to insurance companies, some hospitals, and other providers of health insurance or health care coverage.

In plain speak, it's a health care tax which insurance companies and hospitals will pass along to us, despite assurances to the contrary. The "stabilization" of health care premiums is a 1.5% cap on increases for **this tax only**. Why a guaranteed cap if costs aren't to be passed along to us? ... and it won't stabilize increases for other reasons.

Some recommend Curry County voters vote yes, since Curry General is a critical access hospital exempt from the tax, thinking it will cost us nothing. However, most of us see specialists at hospitals in Medford, Eugene, and other places, which **will** be subject to the tax. Plus, the tax applies to all Oregonians' health insurance policies.

People say vote yes, unless you don't want children, the poor, and the physically challenged to have health care. Of course, I didn't hear any of them saying the same of the Oregon Health Authority when they misspent over \$100 million on ineligible people, leaving less for those truly relying on Medicaid.

This Measure is a temporary assessment, scheduled to last only two years. I haven't found what will eliminate this tax's need by then.

I know there's many Oregonians, especially children, who need Medicaid. But Oregon Health Authority needs to show they've fixed the massive misspending problem before asking us for more. Also, the Legislature should redirect money from less important programs. Health care costs have increased enough already.

Thank you for listening. And have a nice day on the Wild Rivers Coast.