## Ashland News - Oct 5, 2026
## Vote for a fighter

In the last few weeks, our neighbors are receiving letters from the Oregon Health Authority informing them of changes to their health insurance because of Trump's cuts to Medicaid. These Trump cuts will have real devastating impacts on peoples' lives.

When we cast our ballots this November, personally, I will be keeping all of those impacted families in mind. We must elect a State Senator this November who understands health care, who fights for families, and who will stand up to Trump. And the choice couldn't be clearer.

Denise Krause has spent her career in public health and, when she was diagnosed with breast cancer as a single mom, she was denied insurance coverage — something many of us have experienced. But what is different about Denise is that instead of accepting that denial, she fought back and won lifesaving coverage for herself and thousands of women.

That is the attitude we want in our next state senator — a fighter who stands up for us.

In contrast, I looked high and low for Brad Hicks' position on healthcare and couldn't find one. It's alarming to me that such a critical issue is being ignored by him. What I did find however is that Brad has spent his life working for corporate interests.

And, in line with this, he has accepted over $10,000 in campaign contributions from pharmaceutical interests, in addition to a contribution from tobacco giant Altria. He even accepted support from a group that sued to overturn the Affordable Care Act, which would kick hundreds of thousands off of their healthcare.

Healthcare is deeply personal, and the decisions made by our elected officials have real consequences for families across Southern Oregon. This November, vote for a fighter who has our interests at heart — vote Denise Krause.

Regina Ayars
Ashland