

RESOLUTION NO. XXXXXXX

Resolution in Support of State and Federal Legislative Action to Achieve Universal Healthcare Access under a Single Payer System.

The _____ finds:

- B. Whereas, it is impossible for an individual to live a productive, healthy life without access to quality health care.
- C. Whereas, individual wellbeing and public health both benefit when all members of a community have real, meaningful access to health care: the risk of illness from contagious disease decreases; employee and student absenteeism decreases, which is positive for students, employees, and businesses alike; and individuals and families are less likely to experience financial vulnerability, bankruptcy, and homelessness.
- D. Whereas, our current healthcare system requires complex, costly, and time-consuming billing and administrative systems.
- E. Whereas, investments to address social determinants of health and other preventive measures will produce better health outcomes than administrative spending.
- F. Whereas, the current system of healthcare perpetuates historical oppression by reinforcing unequal health outcomes for historically marginalized communities through systemic inequalities in access to and quality of health care.
- G. Whereas, Oregon law (ORS 414.018) states, "it is the intention of the Legislative Assembly to achieve the goals of universal access to an adequate level of high quality health care at an affordable cost."
- H. Whereas, the State of Oregon has an established recent history of working to improve health care access, evidenced by expanding Medicaid eligibility in 2014, and several specific legislative actions. More recently in 2017, the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 558 ("Cover All Kids") which extended Oregon Health Plan coverage to all children in Oregon regardless of immigration status. The Legislature also passed House Bill 3391, the Reproductive Health Equity Act, which extended coverage for the full range of reproductive health services to individuals who would otherwise be eligible for coverage if not for their immigration status.
- I. Whereas, in 2016, the Oregon Health Authority contracted with RAND Corporation and Health Management Associates to complete a study which confirmed that a universal, publicly funded health care system in Oregon is achievable and financially viable.
- J. Whereas, in both 2020 and 2021 the Oregon Legislature, there were multiple bills attempting to address the complexities and costs of the current insurance based system related to mental health, prescription drugs, barriers to care, transparency, universal access, and more.

- K. Whereas, in 2019 the Oregon Legislature passed SB 770 which established the Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care to design a universal, publicly funded health care system and the Task Force has convened to develop its recommendations and continued that support in 2021 with the passage of SB 428.
- L. Whereas, in the 2021 Oregon legislative session SJR 12 was passed as a referral to voters to declare healthcare access as a fundamental right in the Oregon Constitution and it will come before the voters in November, 2022, as IRR 401.
- M. Whereas, in December of 2020, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released a report that examined the cost of universal healthcare proposals based on a Medicare fee-for-service program. The CBO found that implementing a single payer healthcare program would not only guarantee coverage for everyone but would also reduce spending nationwide.
- N. Whereas, the Medicare for All Act, H.R. 1976, has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2021.
- O. Whereas, the State-Based Universal Health Care Act H.R.3775 has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2021.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the [Name of Government Entity/Entity/ Organization] expresses its enthusiastic support for a state-based universal healthcare system and strongly urges the Oregon Legislature and Governor to work to establish a universal healthcare, single payer system accessible to all residing in Oregon through support of the Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care and IRR 401 which will allow voters in 2022 to vote on an amendment to Oregon Constitution declaring healthcare a fundamental right.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the [Name of Government Entity/Entity/Organization] enthusiastically supports improved Medicare for All such as found in H.R. 1976 of 2021. [Name of Government Entity/Entity/Organization] calls on our federal legislators to work toward its immediate enactment, assuring appropriate and efficient health care for all residents of the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the [Name of Government Entity/Entity/Organization] strongly urges our federal delegation to create pathways for states to establish state-based systems under federal waivers that remove all impediments related to receiving federal financial support and other federal restrictions such as found in H.R.3775 of 2021.

**ADOPTED this XXX day of XXXXXXXX,
20XX.**

REVIEWED:
By:

(NAME OF GOVT
ENTITY/ENTITY/ORGANIZATION)

Authorized Signer

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Revised April 12th, 2021.