



April 3, 2013

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Dear Members of the House Health Care Committee:

I am writing to support HB 3260, legislation that authorizes the Oregon Health Authority to study options for financing health care delivery in Oregon, including a single-payer system.

As Oregon's only comprehensive academic health center, we believe there is significant opportunity to reduce costs and improve outcomes through rigorous analysis of what works – and what doesn't – in health care policy and practice. Some of the potential benefits of single payer are readily apparent – reducing overhead expense, eliminating uninsurance – but there are challenges as well. A thorough study should be conducted to bring all relevant issues to light. As a public institution committed to health care reform, OHSU has the resources in evidence-based policy and practice and health systems effectiveness to contribute expertise to this process if requested.

At this moment, the eyes of the nation are on Oregon for our innovative approach to health reform embodied in Health Care Transformation. We should continue to provide health care policy leadership for the country by closely studying a single-payer system for its applicability to Oregon. I encourage your support for HB 3260.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe E Robertson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joseph E. Robertson, M.D., M.B.A.
President